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Five killed in S. Lebanon ambush

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

HIZBULLAH guerrillas laid a classic ambush on a squad of Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon...

It was the costliest attack since the agreements were reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath...

The army identified the dead as Lt. Lior Ramon, 21, of Ramat Gan; Lt. Yishai Shechter, 21, of Kedumim; Staff-Sgt. Gavriel Idan, 20, of Herzliya; Staff-Sgt. Amir Ben-Moshe, 21, of Moshav Yuvallim; and Sgt. Yaniv Roimi, 21, of Afula.

Ramon will be buried today at 1:30 in the military section of Tel Aviv's Kiryat Shaal cemetery. Shechter's funeral is scheduled for 5:30 in the military section of the Afula cemetery. Idan is to be buried at 4 in the military section of the Herzliya cemetery. Ben-Moshe's funeral is scheduled for 6:30 in the military cemetery in Nahariya. And Roimi is to be buried in the military section of the Afula cemetery at 4.

Three of the wounded were in Haifa's Rambam Hospital in serious condition, including Sgt. Nimrod Mor, 20, of Kfar Aza. Sgt. Hen Aloni, 20, of Kibbutz Dorot, suffered moderate wounds, and four others were treated for light injuries.

All the families of the dead and wounded have been notified, the army said.

Prof. Moshe Revav, Rambam's director, said none of the soldiers suffered life-threatening wounds. Dani Barislaw, 19, who was lightly wounded, told Israel Radio the ambush was a blur for him.

"There were gunshots. We started returning fire and then I was wounded," he said.

Aloni said he was hit in the hand and eye. "I was wondering how

we'd get out of all this alive. We had to continue fighting, but I couldn't fire because of the wound in my hand. There weren't too many thoughts."

Prime Minister Shimon Peres warned Hizbullah against carrying out more attacks and "heating up the front" on the backs of the citizens of Lebanon. He also warned that Israel would retaliate "at the time and the place and in the way it sees fit."

Peres canceled a scheduled farewell meeting with the General Staff yesterday morning, and rushed to the North to be briefed by senior commanders, including Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

He later met with prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu.

"There is certainly an increase in the number of Hizbullah attacks in Lebanon," Shabak said.

The ambush took place about 5:15 a.m., after the squad of Nahal troops had reportedly returned from a night patrol in search of Hizbullah guerrillas and was headed to the security zone, outpost at Ali al-Taher.

Security sources said Hizbullah gunmen waiting in the brush opened fire after the soldiers had bunched together for a debriefing in a spot they thought was safe.

"A group of fighters ambushed a Zionist patrol consisting of more than 10 soldiers. The fighters hit them with machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades and clashed with them until all fell to the ground, dead or wounded," said a Hizbullah statement released in Beirut.

During the clash, mortar fire was directed at a number of IDF and South Lebanon Army positions, the IDF said.

UNFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said Norwegian troops in a UN position managed to observe the fire-fight through a heavy fog. He said the post was about 3,000 meters from the ambush. The observers estimated between 500 and 600 rounds were



Army medics evacuate one of the eight soldiers wounded in Hizbullah's ambush on an IDF patrol in southern Lebanon early yesterday morning. The five soldiers killed in the attack will be buried today.

(Avihu Shapiro/Israel Sam)

WORLD OF SPORT

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Likud issues guidelines for new government

SARAH HONIG

THE new government "will negotiate with the Palestinian Authority, but will insist that the Palestinians live up to all of their undertakings." It will also exercise its "right to deploy the IDF and other security forces against the threat of terror anywhere."

Jerusalem will not be divided, and the Golan Heights will not be ceded. These positions are included in a draft of the new government's guidelines that the Likud began circulating among its potential coalition partners yesterday.

The aim is to wind up the coalition formation process this week, so that the government will be ready to be voted on when the new Knesset convenes on Monday.

But the Third Way described the guidelines as "a watery document," which "we cannot accept as is and will want to amend."

Moreover, the religious parties called off a scheduled meeting with Likud negotiators when it realized the session had been called to discuss the diplomatic and military clauses of the guidelines, not the religious status quo.

The draft document did not contain any reference to religious issues. The guidelines tersely note that the government will negotiate with the PA, but do not specify at what level these contacts will be maintained. The Oslo accords are not mentioned.

The guidelines say "the government of Israel will offer the Palestinians a self-rule arrangement in which they can freely run their affairs. The government will oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

Also of interest to the PA is a clause declaring that "the government will insist on its right to deploy the IDF and other security forces to counter the terrorist threat - as necessary and anywhere - to safeguard the security of Israelis and Jews."

A special section is devoted to Jerusalem, opening with the declaration that "united Jerusalem, Israel's capital, is one and indivisible and under Israel's sovereignty... The government will counter any attempt to undermine the integrity of Jerusalem and will prevent any action which is incongruent with Israel's exclusive sovereignty in the city." This is taken as a warning to PA institutions in Jerusalem, especially Orient House.

In very generalized terms, the guidelines briefly speak of "strengthening, expanding and developing settlements throughout the land." There is no mention of setting up new settlements, nor of settlements in the territories.

They also say that "the government considers that the Golan is vital for the defense of the state and the protection of its water resources. This region must be left under Israel's sovereignty."

The guidelines affirm that the government "will strive to expand peace with all our neighbors, while vigilantly safeguarding national and personal security and protecting Israel's vital interests. The government will deepen the peaceful relations with Egypt and Jordan. Israel will negotiate with Syria without any preconditions."

Upgrading relations with those Arab countries with which low-

Continued on page 2

PFLP terror cell in Hebron blamed for drive-by attack

BILL HUTMAN

A TERROR cell that has carried out several attacks in the Hebron area was apparently responsible for Sunday night's drive-by shooting near Beit Shemesh that left a couple dead, and their infant child sitting in the back seat of their car distraught but uninjured.

Yaron and Efrat Unger, of Kiryat Arba, were buried yesterday afternoon at the Kfar Etzion Cemetery. They are survived by Yishai, seven months, who was in the car, and Dvir, 2.

Family members said Efrat was eight weeks' pregnant. The Ungers were returning home from a wedding in Kibbutz Hafetz Haim when they were fired upon, at just before 11 p.m.

Police sources said cartridge casings found at the scene, several hundred meters from the entrance to Moshav Gefen in Emek Ha'ela, linked the attack with a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terror cell.

The initial police investigation indicated the terrorists opened fire with two Kalashnikov assault rifles as they passed the Ungers' car, which took fire from the side and then in the front as the terrorists sped off.

Both vehicles were traveling east, toward Kiryat Arba and Hebron. Magen David Adom medics declared the couple dead

at the scene. Yishai was uninjured, but was taken to the hospital for observation.

There were apparently three terrorists in the car, a driver and two passengers in the back who opened fire.

"Words can't describe what I saw," said Yehuda Mesilati, the first person at the scene. Blood was splattered all over the front seat and window of the Ungers' car, which had crashed to a halt in a gully alongside the road.

Area residents complained that police were slow in arriving. "It seemed like a real long time before the police got here," said

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Olmert to be indicted for 1988 campaign funding violations

EVELYN GORDON and BILL HUTMAN

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair has decided to indict Jerusalem Mayor MK Ehud Olmert for alleged crimes committed during the 1988 election campaign, when Olmert served as Likud treasurer.

Ben-Yair informed prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu of this decision at a meeting last night. Netanyahu had reportedly been considering Olmert for a cabinet post, but Ben-Yair's decision nixes that idea. According to a 1993 High Court ruling, no one under indictment can serve as a minister.

Ben-Yair will grant Olmert a hearing, at which he can try to convince him that the indictment is baseless. If he fails, Ben-Yair will then ask the Knesset to lift Olmert's immunity so that he can stand trial.

The draft indictment charges Olmert with aggravated fraud and falsifying corporate documents, as well as two violations of the income tax laws and one violation of the Party Funding Law.

All of the charges relate to the Likud's 1988 election campaign, during which Olmert, as treasurer, was heavily involved in fund-raising. According to the draft indictment, Olmert suggested to Yona Peled - a member of a non-profit organization raising funds for the Likud - that he solicit money from businesses, and give them fictitious receipts which would indicate that the money was spent on advertising. Peled accepted the idea, and in this way the Likud raised NIS 932,787, none of which was recorded on his organization's books.

The scheme violated the law in two ways. First, contributions from businesses are illegal. Second, the fictitious receipts enabled the companies to take tax deductions for the donations as if they were legitimate business expenses. Olmert also submitted a false

report to State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat so that she would give the Likud a clean bill of health for its campaign finances. This enabled the party to receive the remainder of its campaign funding, NIS 2.148 million, from the government.

Peled and eight others involved in the affair were indicted in the Tel Aviv District Court in 1991, but the state said at the time that it lacked sufficient evidence to indict Olmert. Peled's testimony against Olmert during the trial changed the situation, but Ben-Yair saw no point in indicting Olmert unless the district court convicted the others - which it did three months ago.

Olmert last night declined to comment on the affair.

"He has yet to receive anything official from the attorney-general, and until then has no comment," municipal spokesman Haggai Elras said. However, Ben-Yair's office said Olmert received a copy

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Netanyahu to Primakov: We're committed to peace process

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday sought to reassure Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov that he is committed to the peace process, his aides said.

that Primakov sounded pleased by the statement. Netanyahu said he would welcome specific Russian suggestions on advancing the peace process, but made it clear that Israel favors direct talks with the Arabs, implying that he is not seeking a new Russian role.

with Russia," although no specifics were discussed. In the last few months, Russian-Israeli relations have been frosty due to a variety of problems, ranging from reliance on the US as a broker during Operation Grapes of Wrath to Moscow's suspension of Jewish Agency activities.

Turkey says its air force planes trained in Israel

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkish air force planes took part in training flights in Israel last month as part of a military cooperation pact, the Foreign Ministry said here yesterday.

tried to play down the importance of the deal, which analysts say puts pressure on Syria. The spokesman said he had no information on a Turkish delegation's visit to Israel for modernizing Turkish air force jets. Israeli defense officials said on Sunday that Turkey is considering a \$600 million deal to upgrade Phantom fighter-bombers.

Orr: fight against Hizbullah has 'ups and downs'

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

YESTERDAY'S ambush in southern Lebanon, which killed five Israeli soldiers and wounded eight, was regrettable, but did not technically violate the agreements reached following Operation Grapes of Wrath, said Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr.

"This is war and you don't always win. I regret what happened, and it is not acceptable. But the war on terror is a very difficult war, and it will take many years to win. There are ups and downs."

Orr maintained that the attack did not necessarily show that Hizbullah's ability to attack is improving. "It was not bad before, and it's not bad now. This is a war and they have successes."

He dismissed the declarations by politicians and former generals calling for military action.

"There is no solution with force. A solution is linked with Syria and Lebanon, and there are other ways to make [Hizbullah] hurt. That is what we have to do," Orr said.

He said he sees no connection between the impending change in government and the escalating tensions in Lebanon.

"We are in a state of war and there are ups and downs, and it has nothing to do with what goes on here."

He defended the agreements reached following Operation Grapes of Wrath, saying it was never Israel's intention to obtain a cease-fire, but agreements to halt the attacks against civilians, which so far, Orr said, have stood.

Since Operation Grapes of Wrath ended, however, nine IDF and five SLA soldiers have been killed. In contrast, Hizbullah has lost no more than four men, according to Ze'ev Schiff, the military analyst for Ha'aretz, who was interviewed last night on Channel 1's *Mabat* news.

"The problem is they infiltrate and lay the bombs without being hampered. What we had in Lebanon was an ambush on an ambush," Schiff said.

He said Hizbullah is succeeding because it is bolder, and that the IDF is being too careful not to harm civilians.

"The IDF, in my opinion, is overly cautious in everything connected with north of the security zone. They are careful so they don't harm civilians after the incident at Kafr Kana. It appears this is an exaggerated caution," Schiff said.

He added that Hizbullah, as well as Islamic Jihad and Hamas, do not operate according to the Israeli political agenda.

"The prime minister-elect won't have a lot of time and will be obligated to deal with crises developing much quicker than he or others expected," Schiff said.



Prime Minister Shimon Peres greets prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu before a meeting yesterday in which Peres briefed Netanyahu on the current security situation. The prime minister's military secretary, Maj.-Gen. Ze'ev Livne, was also at the meeting. (Dan Dammeng)

Mubarak: Israel won't be allowed to dominate region

News agencies

CAIRO - President Hosni Mubarak was quoted yesterday as saying Israel would not be allowed to dominate the region, as preparations got under way for next week's Arab summit.

"I assure you, Israel will not control Middle East policies. And I assure you, peace will continue despite any obstacles. The Cairo summit is for the continuation of peace, a just and comprehensive peace," Mubarak said in an interview published in *Mayo*, a government-owned weekly newspaper.

Oman's Sultan Qaboos arrived yesterday for talks on the Cairo summit, which begins June 21. Qaboos arrived from Saudi Arabia, where he spent three days.

His visit came amid a flurry of meetings among Arab leaders following the May 29 election of Binyamin Netanyahu as Israel's next prime minister. The summit will be the largest gathering of Arab leaders since the

1991 Gulf war. Oman and Saudi Arabia are partners in a six-nation political and military alliance which also groups Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain. Oman and Qatar have both developed ties with Israel which has worried their more conservative neighbors.

The leaders of at least 18 Arab states plus the Palestinians are ready to send representatives to the Cairo summit, *Mayo* reported yesterday.

Mubarak was quoted in an interview as saying that Egypt was also inviting Sudan, but he did not say whether Sudan had yet agreed to come.

The only definite exception is Iraq, which is not invited and which some Gulf states do not want to see in Cairo.

"We agreed...to postpone the partici-

tion of Iraq at this summit to avoid any problems which might prevent holding it at this time, in view of the severe sensitivities which have existed since Iraq invaded Kuwait," he said.

"All the Arab leaders have expressed their complete willingness to have their countries represented... [and] it has been decided to invite Sudan," Mubarak said.

Mayo and the Egyptian government newspapers listed the expected participants as Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The international Arabic-language newspaper *Asharq al-Awsat* said King Hassan of Morocco may not attend in person but would send a representative and adhere to summit decisions.

GUIDELINES

Continued from Page 1

level contacts exist and furthering cooperation with Arab countries with which no relations exist will be prime aims of the government, the document says.

The economic section says that deficits will not be cut via increased taxes, but by cutting bureaucratic and government expenditures and strict budgeting, privatization of state-owned enterprises, and the sale of public land.

The competitiveness of Israeli firms will be enhanced by the removing of customs and administrative obstacles and the liberalization of the currency, capital, and labor markets.

The Third Way's Yehuda Harel complained that the guidelines "do not mention Israel's obligation to the Oslo process nor a firmer commitment to the settlements. On the Golan, we prefer the Labor formulation in its 1992 platform which said that 'in the framework of any agreement with Syria, the Golan will remain under Israeli sovereignty.'"

Jon Immanuel adds: "I don't want to pour oil on the

fire," said Ahmed Qreia, the chief Palestinian negotiator at Oslo and Speaker of the Palestinian Council, in reaction to the guidelines. "But I don't think this is a solution.

"I don't believe this is peace. It is one party with power imposing its position on the other side. The self-rule arrangements will never satisfy the interests of the Palestinian people. They want to achieve their national rights, to work with Israelis as good neighbors."

Qreia said what develops in negotiations is unforeseeable. "No one expected that security cooperation between Israel and Palestinians would go this far. Negotiations are negotiations; positions are positions, but can you imagine that there will be a peace in which settlements are occupying our land?"

He was concerned that there was no mention of redeployment in Hebron in the guidelines and warned that any protracted delay would be considered serious.

Mine found under senior police officer's car

A MINE was found under the car of a senior police officer in the Judea District yesterday evening, and was defused without incident, a police spokesman said.

Chief Supt. Rafi Sasson, head of the district intelligence and investigations department, by chance noticed the IDF-issue mine when he left the Gush Etzion station. His car was parked outside the fenced area around the station, the spokesman said.

Bill Hutman

OLMERT

Continued from Page 1

of the draft indictment on Sunday. Sources in the Likud charged that Ben-Yair released the decision to file charges now because he was upset with an Israel Radio report that Netanyahu planned to replace him.

"The whole thing stinks," said one Likud source, close to OLMERT. "We are talking about something that happened eight years ago, that a long time ago it was decided OLMERT was not involved in, and now all of a sudden it is being brought up again... The timing is no coincidence."

However, Ben-Yair's office noted that two years ago, in response to a High Court petition

by Amitai-Citizens for Good Government, it had promised a decision on OLMERT's case as soon as a verdict was reached on Peled's.

Furthermore, Netanyahu's office last night unequivocally denied that he had any intention of replacing Ben-Yair.

The Likud sources charged that Ben-Yair had politicized his position, noting that just before the election he decided Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, and Deputy Minister Masha Lubelski should not be charged in connection with various financial wrongdoings of which they were suspected.

Police spokesmen said the reports were received from the army. The army was investigating the origin of the false reports, according to the IDF spokesman.

Meanwhile, Meir Unger, Yaron's father, said his son and daughter-in-law often traveled through Emek Ha'ela and never expected it would be the site of a terror attack.

He said he and his wife would likely raise their orphaned grandchildren. "I just have to pull myself together so I have the strength," he said.

Jon Immanuel adds: The Palestinian Authority condemned the attack.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe said whoever did it wanted to delay the pullout from Hebron.

PA Justice Minister Freih Abu Melein said that he was disturbed at the "new round of violence," but added, "If there is no real achievement in the peace process, if Mr. Netanyahu and his government turn their back on the peace process, expect more violence." See related stories, Page 3

US to continue urging Arabs not to react rashly

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

PRIOR to the June 21 Arab League summit, Secretary of State Warren Christopher will urge Arab leaders not to act rashly after Binyamin Netanyahu's victory, he told reporters here yesterday.

In the past 10 days, the US has publicly and privately sought to temper Arab reaction to the election.

Christopher said he will again urge regional leaders "to not rush to judgment in this situation."

"I think it's particularly important that they not close any doors at the present time, that they not take any actions that would derail the peace process," Christopher said prior to his meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer.

"In my comments to my Arab colleagues over the next week or 10 days prior to their summit, I'm going to be emphasizing the point that this is no time to be closing doors or to take any action that would preclude a relationship between the new Israeli government and the Arab countries."

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns later told reporters that Monday's killing of five IDF soldiers in the security zone

is "the last thing that we need now," and called on Hizbullah to "cease and desist" its attacks on Israeli soldiers.

"An upsurge in violence only serves the interest of those who reject the peace negotiations," he said.

Burns said the still-unfinished talks on forming a five-nation committee to monitor the Operation Grapes of Wrath cease-fire should resume soon, but that time will be needed until the new Netanyahu government is in place and has its "own imprint" on the coalition.

Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich told US peace team officials that it is important that the Arab world condemn the recent attacks, after the negative "tone and content" of the weekend's Damascus summit, an Israeli official said. He urged the administration to convey that message to the "relevant parties," the official said.

Burns also said the US "fully supports" the recent strengthening of Israeli-Turkish security ties because they "open up the possibilities" for friendly relations in the region.

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Thousands attend terror victims' funeral

HERB KEINON

ONE after the other, one beside the other, Yaron and Efrat Unger were buried in the small cemetery in Kfar Etzion yesterday as thousands of people — friends, relatives and perfect strangers — stood in pained silence.

"How can we avenge two righteous people?" said former chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu. "God Almighty, how long will You hide Your face. We have had enough of Your hiding Your face. Who will comfort the orphans, who will comfort the fathers and mothers, who will comfort the brothers and sisters?"

As he spoke, the only other noises were sobs in the crowd and a breeze rustling the pine trees. "We are full of faith and are strong, but this is a terrible blow," said Gideon Pearl, the rabbi of Alon Shvut, his pleading sing-song voice reverberating through loudspeakers. "There are no words to describe the pain. Who can give comfort here?"

"They were loved and dear in their lives, and

in their death they were not separated," said Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, quoting from the Book of Samuel. "Two-and-a-half years ago we stood here and prayed that Yitzhak Weinstock would be the last victim. But we did not merit this."

Weinstock, of Alon Shvut, was killed in a terror attack near Beit El. Efrat Unger's parents live in Alon Shvut.

When Lau mentioned in his eulogy that another tragedy had hit the north, referring to the attack that killed five IDF soldiers, many in the crowd turned to their neighbors and asked what he was talking about. News of the attack had not yet been broadcast on Israel Radio.

Unlike some other funerals of terror victims over the last four years, this one was nearly void of political declarations or angry speeches against the government. The anger of the

speakers and the crowd, which stood under a searing sun for two hours in nearly perfect decorum, seemed directed more toward heaven than at the government.

The only exception was Gush Etzion Regional Council head Shilo Gal, who said: "Those who made a covenant with murderers, if they did make such a covenant, cannot say that their hands did not spill this blood, or their eyes did not see."

Ze'ev Unger, Yaron's brother, called for strength to continue. "Dvir [the couple's two-year-old son] cried out for his father all night. Give us the strength to continue to bring him up in the way of Torah, faith and pioneering."

Regarding the raising of the small children — Dvir, and Yishai, seven months — Uri Dasberg, Efrat's father, told Israel Radio. "Someone asked how many children we have. I said six; we had seven. Now we will have eight — all at once another two children were born to us."



The Ungers' bullet-ridden car shortly after Sunday night's drive-by shooting attack. (Yitzhak Elazar/Scoop 80)

Other drive-by shooting victims

THE murder of Efrat and Yaron Unger on Sunday night near Beit Shemesh was the first drive-by shooting attack within the Green Line in the last four years.

Since the intifada began eight-and-a-half years ago, some 20 Israelis have been murdered in drive-by shootings, mostly in the territories.

In 1992, a soldier was wounded in a drive-by shooting at the Bilu Junction. The terror cell that carried out that attack also murdered two policemen at the Gan Samuel Junction when they were sitting in their car.

David Boim, a high school pupil studying in Beit El, was killed in a drive-by attack near the settlement on May 13.

Other drive-by shooting attacks in recent years:

- May 1993: Avshalom Halfon and Nissim Falas, grocers who had come to Gaza to buy produce, were shot dead.
- August 1993: Two IDF soldiers, Tomer David and Lev Fishov, were shot dead at an IDF roadblock in the Ramallah District.
- September 1993: Soldier Zion Alkahi shot from a parked car as his military vehicle drove by near Dura in the Hebron region.
- December 1993: Shalva Ozana shot dead from a passing car when the car she was in broke down near Ramallah. That same month, Mordechai Lapid and his son, Shlomo, were murdered near the Zechuchit Junction in Hebron, and Elhanu Levine and Meir Mendelovitz were shot dead in the Ramallah area.
- February 1994: Raphael Yair and Margalit Shohat shot dead in their car on the Beersheba-Hebron road.
- January 1995: Ofra Felix shot dead in the car she was in, north of Beit El. (Itim)

'They had so much going for them'

ONE day after Efrat (Effie) Dasberg, 25, and her husband Yaron Unger, 27, were killed in a terrorist attack as they returned home from a wedding, friends and neighbors in Dasberg's hometown of Alon Shvut in Gush Etzion struggled to cope with the loss.

"They had so much going for them, so much hope for the future," said Amos Safrai, a close friend and neighbor. "And now it's all been cut off in the middle."

The couple were the parents of two young children, Dvir, 2, and Yishai, seven months. Efrat was eight months pregnant. Her parents told reporters that they would raise the children. "We hope we'll be able to get younger for them," Uri Dasberg said. "Everything will be done for the good of the children."

"We now have six children, because we used to have seven. Now, in one fell swoop, two more children were born to us and we have eight."

In the hours leading up to the funeral, the Dasberg family's Alon Shvut home was mobbed by friends and neighbors who had come to offer condolences. At

times, the line stretched outside the house, and people waited patiently in the hot noonday sun, and remembered their friends.

"I was very close with Effie because we were close in age," said a 20-year-old neighbor. "How do you begin to mourn someone you grew up with?"

Conversations with those who had gathered at the house revealed a community still mourning another murder, that of Ya'acov Weinstock, nearly three years ago.

"Wasn't one enough? Didn't we suffer enough then?" asked another neighbor. "Can you imagine what it feels like when another friend of yours is killed?"

Many neighbors pointed out that Efrat's family, one of the first to settle in Alon Shvut, was known by nearly the entire community. Her father, Uri, is a popular educator and rabbi, who works at Tzomet, an institute which finds ways to synthesize Jewish law with modern technology. Her mother, Yehudit, is an educator.

Efrat, who was one of seven children, studied graphic design at

Jerusalem's Emmanah College after finishing her National Service. She wrote and illustrated comics and books for children, and had just started a weekly comic based on her family. Neighbors described her as a "wonderful, talented girl who always seemed to be smiling."

Yaron's parents were one of the founders of Sha'arei Tikva, near Elkana. He studied at the heder yeshiva in the Golan Heights, and later served in an infantry unit. He had been teaching in Kiryat Arba's primary school.

One of Efrat's teachers at the Alon Shvut primary school said the two had seemed to be a perfect match.

"They loved to learn and to teach," she said. "It's so very, very sad."

She added that the murders were particularly hard on her young students.

"All of us take the road [that they were attacked on]," she said. "The kids are scared because they and their families travel on it, and they all wonder how long it will be until it's their parents who don't return."



Mourners attend the funeral yesterday of Efrat and Yaron Unger, who were murdered in the drive-by shooting attack Sunday night. The two were buried in Kfar Etzion. (Arieh Jeruzolimski)

Man thinks he saw killers' vehicle speeding to attack

BILL HUTMAN

YEHUDA Mesilati slowly pulled up to the car he noticed on the side of the road in the Ela Valley on Sunday night, sensing that something was wrong.

Mesilati, who is severely crippled in both legs and walks with crutches, said at first he thought the car had been in a road accident. Even when he saw the dead bodies in the front seat, and child, crying in the back, he at first thought that "maybe it was some sort of double murder motivated by a romantic quarrel."

Mesilati, from Ashkelon, was returning from a wedding with his wife and two children. Efrat and Yaron Unger were returning home from a different wedding when they were shot dead by terrorists. Mesilati probably crossed paths with the terrorists, too.

"A car drove in my direction at high speed with its bright lights on, and I flashed my brights, but

it stayed on. He was driving in the middle of the road," recalled Mesilati, from Ashkelon.

"I kept flashing my bright lights, but the car just kept coming right at us. I had to swerve to the side to avoid being hit head on," he said. Police believe this was the terrorist's car, and received a detailed description of the vehicle from Mesilati.

It was several dozen meters later, between Moshav Zecharia and the Re'em Junction, that he spotted the car alongside the road.

"My first reaction was that the car must have been forced off the road by the crazy driver I had just seen. I pulled myself out of my car to get a closer look, and see if the people inside needed help," Mesilati said.

"I couldn't believe my eyes.

There are no words to describe what I saw," said Mesilati. In the front seat were the Ungers, hunched over, shot to death. In the back seat, still strapped into a car seat, was seven-month-old Yishai, crying.

Mesilati, balanced on his crutches, said he "had to break the back window to get the door open so I could get reach the baby. Then, I couldn't manage to unfasten the baby's seat belt, and just about had to rip it off to get him out," said Mesilati.

An ambulance soon arrived, apparently called by another driver who had stopped at the scene, and took the infant away.

The site of them dead in the front seat and the baby crying in the back keeps coming back in my mind over and over again," Mesilati said.

"I don't think I'll ever be able to forget it."

New heart surgery technique demonstrated here

JUDY SIEGEL

A 44-YEAR-OLD man with a defective aortic valve became the first local patient to undergo extremely complicated open-heart surgery, adapting his own pulmonary valve in its place and implanting a new pulmonary valve from a donor. The operation was performed by Prof. Tirone David, of Toronto, regarded as one of the world's leading heart surgeons, as part of an international symposium on cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery in Jerusalem.

The unusual surgery was carried out in Shaare Zedek hospital and viewed via closed-circuit video by hundreds of doctors and nurses from around the country. David calmly answered questions from a panel of physicians, and even joked, during the three-hour operation, as he molded and secured the valve tissue using hundreds of sutures. The patient's heart was re-started with an electric shock after his body was kept alive on a heart-lung machine.

David praised a senior Shaare Zedek scrub nurse, who seemed to anticipate his every move, even though such surgery had never been performed in the hospital before.

Meanwhile, a new US technique for saving the lives of inoperable heart patients — based on the anatomy of reptiles, which have no blood vessels — was pre-

sented in a lecture. The method, developed by Prof. Alex Zapolansky, of San Francisco, involves the drilling into the cardiac muscle with lasers to supply it with blood.

The laser is used to tunnel into the heart muscle and infuse it with blood, instead of trying to repair the patients' coronary arteries, which are close to useless. Zapolansky said he had performed the procedure on 200 inoperable patients, and that their quality of life has much improved.

Hundreds of cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons from around the country, as well as guests from Egypt, Jordan, the autonomous areas, North America, Europe, Turkey and Panama attended the two-day symposium, which ended yesterday.

On the first day, Dr. Yaron Almagor, head of the hospital's catheterization unit, and colleagues performed balloon angioplasty on patients with very serpentine or narrow clogged coronary arteries and then inserted the latest generation of metallic supports to prevent the collapse of the vessels.

One of the patients received the new US drug ReoPro, approved for use here just last week, which significantly reduces the risk of death during catheterization and of the vessels reclogging.

Vigil backs Netanyahu against religious parties' demands

EVELYN GORDON

THE Movement for Quality Government in Israel began a small protest vigil in the Knesset Rose Garden yesterday, to lend support to prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu in resisting the coalition demands of the religious parties.

Some 10 activists were present, mostly just relaxing in the shade, but also asking passersby to sign petitions in support of their position. Many of the school-age signers, however, did not appear to have any grasp of what they were signing.

Movement leader Eliad Shraga charged that the religious parties' demand to return the religious status quo to what it was in 1992, and to protect this status quo in a new Basic Law, would emasculate the two existing Basic Laws — Human Dignity and Freedom, and

law gives the prime minister much more power than he has ever had before.

"If there is anything that can balance [the new power of] the prime minister, it is the Basic Laws," he said. "But in any case, the basis of our constitution [should not] be a negotiable commodity."

Shraga also charged that the religious parties' demands regarding the status quo would undermine the High Court, because overturning so many of its decisions would turn it into an empty forum with no power.

However, the court itself has ruled many times that Israel's current constitutional system grants ultimate authority to the legislature, and that therefore the Knesset has the right to pass legislation nullifying any High Court decision it pleases.

Netanya couple charged with severe child abuse

RAINE MARCUS

A NETANYA couple was charged yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court with severely abusing their five children over a five-year period.

According to the indictment, the two, in their forties, committed a series of appalling acts against their children, especially against their 16-year-old daughter, including showing her head against a wall, putting her head in the toilet, and forcing her to eat spoiled food.

The girl was not given warm clothes in winter, and the mother did not wash her clothes. She would also hurl lit matches at her daughter, beat her, prevent her from going to school or seeing friends, and would lock the girl in a small room for several days at a time, the indictment said.

The girl's father also beat her,

telling her she was lucky he only slapped her and did not use his fists, otherwise "there would be murder."

When the 16-year-old was younger, read the charge sheet, the mother would wrap her in a wet blanket and kick her as a punishment for wetting the bed. On one occasion the girl's mother hit her so hard that the girl fell and broke her front teeth. The parents did not allow her dental treatment.

Regarding the other children, the parents are charged with beating them regularly and locking them in the lavatory.

"The accused not only neglected their duties as parents but also subjected [the children] to systematic abuse and atrocities, causing them long-term physical and mental damage," read the indictment.

Two men indicted for snake-catcher's murder

HAREL Hirschig, 21, and Dan Koenig, 20, both of Kibbutz Deganya B, were charged yesterday in Haifa District Court with the murder of snake-catcher Ya'acov Sela.

Sela's body, which had been buried in the southern Golan Heights, was discovered by high school students on an outing on March 9.

Judges Micha Lindenstrauss, Bilha Gilor, and Shmuel Berimer will hear the case beginning on June 24. The two are also charged with conspiracy to commit murder and aggravated fraud.

According to the indictment, Hirschig — with the help of Koenig and a 17-year-old youth — had defrauded Sela, who was romantically involved with his

mother Rina, out of some NIS 140,000. The murder was committed to prevent him from pressing charges.

The pair allegedly convinced Sela to accompany them to a bank in Tel Aviv. Then, while driving to Haifa, Hirschig pretended to be ill and asked Sela to pull over. When Sela stopped his car, Koenig shot him three times with a licensed gun belonging to Rina Hirschig. Hirschig then took the gun and fired one shot into Sela's head at point-blank range.

The prosecution said that Koenig has confessed and renounced the murder, and that ballistics evidence shows that Sela was killed with the gun belonging to Rina Hirschig.

Both defendants were remanded until trial. (Itim)

Press Council unveils new ethics code

THE Press Council's ethical court has handed down 59 decisions since it was established a year and a half ago, according to Uri Slonim, head of the court.

Slonim made the announcement at a Tel Aviv press conference convened by the council to introduce a new code of ethics for journalists.

The code establishes norms of fairness, reasonableness, and accuracy in reporting. In the event that an indictment is brought against a newspaper publisher, editor, or journalist, the ethical court will have to determine whether it is a charge reflecting on the character of the individual and should therefore bar him from holding a position of responsibility.

Press Council chairman Haim Tzadok said that the code also requires newspapers to reveal the extent of their financial holdings. (Itim)

Yeltsin sees light at end of tunnel

COMPARING life in Russia to being in a dark, scary tunnel, President Boris Yeltsin urged Russians yesterday to go forward with the assurance that they are moving toward a brighter future.

Yeltsin, speaking for the first time on one of his free radio campaign spots, was trying to counter a Communist theme of nostalgia for Soviet times.

He is fighting a tough race against Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, but Yeltsin claimed he would win in the first round on June 16. The latest polls show the president surging ahead, but they point to an all but certain second-round run-off.

Some people now think they have gotten into a tunnel "where it's too far to return, there is no road that turns away and it's scary to go forward," Yeltsin said on Yunost radio.

He asked Russians to think back on what the country has achieved during the five years of his presidency and "it will be immediately clear what we have left behind, what we've achieved and how much is left to do."

Many Russians, especially older people whose pensions have shriveled under market reforms, bemoan the loss of the Soviet safety net and fondly remember

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MOSCOW

the days of free health care and low, subsidized food prices.

Yeltsin said it was normal to remember only good things, but people were forgetting empty store shelves, "only one party and only one right opinion," and that "we lived behind an Iron Curtain."

He said Russia was building a new economy that will "secure a decent life for people" and returning to its roots with the opening of thousands of cathedrals.

"People are no longer afraid of Russia, they respect it," Yeltsin said, addressing many Russians' regret at the loss of the Soviet Union's superpower status.

"Today our own enemy is our cowardice, our bewilderment... our constant hope for a 'kind uncle,'" Yeltsin said. "There will be no 'kind uncle,' nobody will come and say: on June 17 we'll have a better life. And if anybody says this - he isn't worth a dime."

Most reputable polls say a third or so of the voters back Yeltsin and about about a quarter are for Zyuganov, his main rival.

But in an interview on indepen-

dent NTV, Yeltsin said his "intuition" tells him he'll get the 50 percent-plus one he needs on June 16 to avoid a runoff.

Zyuganov was quoted by a Hungarian daily yesterday as expressing admiration for dictator Josef Stalin and suggesting he jailed fewer people than today's Russian leaders.

"Had he lived for five or six more years, the Soviet Union would have been undefeatable for centuries," Zyuganov was quoted by the centrist newspaper *Magyar Hirlap* as saying.

Zyuganov said "excesses" under Stalin, a euphemism for mass purges, were committed by "aliens." He named two Jewish and one Georgian member of the Soviet leadership of the 1930s.

In response to suggestions that Stalin had killed millions during his three decades in power, the paper quoted Zyuganov as saying: "There might be more people in the gulags (prison camps) now than under Josef Vissarionovich (Stalin) and they live under worse circumstances."

"Stalin made great strides as a statesman. He embraced Russian nationalism, relied on the church during World War II and protected ancient borders of the Russian empire," he said.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin clowns on Sunday after the traditional Tatar game of break the clay pot, as two local officials present him with a covered rifle. The game was part of the Tatar festival 'Sabantui', the celebration of the plough, in the town of Arsk, 60km from the Tatar capital of Kazan. (AP)

Slovenia applies for EU membership

SLOVENIA was rewarded yesterday for distancing itself from the Yugoslav conflict by being given a lucrative association agreement with the European Union, and immediately applied for full EU membership.

Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek made the application moments after signing the association agreement, which promises trade and economic incentives.

Drnovsek said he hoped Slovenia, one of the Balkans' best-performing economies, would be among the first East European nations to become an EU member.

Slovenia hopes to join in 2001.

At a meeting with the EU foreign ministers, Drnovsek signed the association accord - a first step to EU membership for all aspiring newcomers.

News agencies
LUXEMBOURG

The accord opens up trade possibilities and sets up regular cooperation in areas ranging from foreign affairs and crime-fighting to tourism and education.

The signing of the accord has been held up for two years in a diplomatic dispute with Italy over property rights for ethnic Italians who fled Slovenia after World War II. The has been settled in a compromise under which Slovenia will allow EU nationals to buy property within four years.

"The application for membership which I'm submitting today... is an important chapter in the book of integration," Drnovsek told a news

conference after the ceremony.

The agreement was approved earlier only after Britain decided against using its veto as part of a blocking tactic it is employing to win an end to an EU ban on its beef sales.

Diplomats said Britain was under enormous pressure from the United States to reward Slovenia for not involving itself in the Yugoslav conflict.

Slovenia fought a brief 10-day independence war against the Yugoslav federal army in June 1991 but has avoided warfare on the scale of that which racked Croatia and Bosnia.

Drnovsek said Slovenia shared many ideals with the EU including "respect for democracy, human rights and the belief in a market economy."

Waldheim admits he was wrong - but not very

VIENNA (Reuter) - Former UN secretary-general Austrian Kurt Waldheim, in a long-awaited autobiography, conceded it was a mistake to conceal his Nazi war record in the Balkans but maintained his behavior was above reproach.

In his book *The Answer* published today, Waldheim recognizes that failure to address his military record between 1942 and 1945 cast him in the role of political villain rather than elder statesman.

"Today, I know that a detailed curriculum vitae, including all details of my time with the military, may have caused me some short-term problems but years later would have spared me many difficulties," writes Waldheim, who served as UN chief from 1972 to 1982 and as Austrian president from 1986 to 1992.

"I have regretted this mistake many times over and later - admittedly too late - I tried hard to provide an explanation," said Waldheim, 77, in the single chapter of his book dedicated to his war record.

Waldheim's campaign for the Austrian presidency and his election victory in June 1986 were marred by allegations, mainly from the World Jewish Congress (WJC) in New York, that he was involved in war crimes committed by the army of Austrian-born Adolf Hitler.

Despite his repeated denials, the US Justice Department in 1987 added Waldheim's name to its immigration "watch list" of people to be refused entry to the United States because of their association with Hitler's regime.

He was cold-shouldered by the international community, plunging Austria into a period of isolation which was only truly lifted when Vienna joined the European Union last year.

"The truth is, as so often, far less worthy of head-

lines. I had nothing to hide, neither my military service in general nor my time in the Balkans," he writes in *The Answer*.

Waldheim, a member of Austria's conservative People's Party, senses an international smear campaign and notes his military record, which first came under scrutiny in 1986, had long been in the public domain.

"Between Vienna and New York, in a conspiratorial way, the basis for an anti-Waldheim campaign was laid," he says, turning his fire on Social Democrat opponents at home and the WJC in the United States.

Waldheim has long claimed his work as a junior staff officer and liaison officer, responsible for compiling reports on the enemy and sometimes interpreting, kept him far from the front line in the Balkans.

In his book, he again denies knowledge of the deportation of thousands of Greek Jews from Salonika, just six km from where he was based for many months.

"At that time I wasn't even in Salonika, but on study leave in Vienna and later in Tirana and Athens," Waldheim says.

"I know I am speaking for many of my compatriots when I say: We knew Jews were hunted down but we knew nothing of the Holocaust, of the systematic extermination of millions of Jews," he continues.

Waldheim regarded as a clear vindication his victory in the 1986 presidential election, which made him the nation's first non-Socialist head of state since World War II.

"Young people knew instinctively, here was someone who was being wrongly accused," he says of the result, which was greeted by a storm of protest outside Austria.

'Time' lists most influential and most powerful

NEW YORK (AP) - *Time* magazine's list of the 25 "most influential" people in the United States includes Vice President Al Gore, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and rock star Courtney Love.

The magazine also listed the 10 "most powerful."

The 25 most influential, profiled in the June 17 issue on sale yesterday, range in age from 31 to 67. Some are millionaires, others make do on a teacher's salary.

The magazine said its selections were based on their abilities "to educate and entertain, to change the ways we think about ourselves and others."

"We try to identify the people who are truly influencing our culture and the way we live," said Walter Isaacson, *Time's* managing editor. "It's not supposed to be a list of the trendiest people of the hour, nor is it a power list. It's about energy, ideas, and talent."

Time magazine, which has chosen a man of the year since 1927, plans to make the influential list, which is not ranked, an annual event.

"Influence can take the form of mass impact," *Time* reports. "Martha Stewart's inexhaustible brand of domesticity claims a sizable audience. So does Jerry Seinfeld's small-bore irony and Oprah Winfrey's irresistible empathy. There is influence within a creative field. Hence the architect Frank Gehry and the female-rocker-as-open-wound Courtney Love."

The 10 most powerful, ranked in order of importance, were: President Bill Clinton, Microsoft's Bill Gates, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, media mogul Rupert Murdoch, Disney's Michael Eisner, General Electric chief executive Jack Welch, Intel chief Andrew Grove, General Motors'

Jack Smith; Fidelity chief Ned Johnson and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.

"Power may lack the majesty it once had, but it's still something to cringe, not sneeze, at," *Time* said.

Also on the list of most influential were: conservative William Bennett, digital entrepreneur Jim Clark, human potential guru Stephen Covey, psychologist Carol Gilligan, management consultant Michael Hammer, fashion designer Calvin Klein, Nike head Phil Knight, television executive Geraldine Laybourne, jazz musician Wynton Marsalis, political consultant Dick Morris, novelist Toni Morrison, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Robert Redford, hospital company executive Richard Scott, Microsoft's head of new media Patty Stonesifer, biologist E.O. Wilson, sociologist William J. Wilson and physicist Ed Witten.

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Some civic leaders support Islamists

ANKARA (AP) - The pro-Islamic Welfare Party gained support from some union and business leaders yesterday as its leader began talks with other party leaders in a bid to form a coalition government.

Welfare, which led the December parliamentary elections, was blocked from power by a coalition of two center-right parties which collapsed last week.

Welfare's anti-secular and anti-Western rhetoric has scared many in the business community and the military, but some may be softening their opposition because the alternative has been unstable government.

"Welfare should be supported to form a minority government," said Bayram Meral, leader of the Turkish Confederation of Labor Unions.

"The Turkish people should see what (Welfare) will bring to the country and what it will take away. There is no reason to be afraid of Welfare," said Skrip Sabanci, one of Turkey's most powerful businessmen, agreed. "If we believe in democracy, we have to test Welfare in government," he said.

Since being asked by the president last Friday to try to form a coalition, Welfare leader Necmettin Erbakan has sought to calm fears about his party by saying he would respect democracy fully if given the chance to rule.

Erbakan met with the leader of a small nationalist party yesterday, first in a series of meetings to be held this week with all the leaders in Parliament. Erbakan hopes to convince one of the center-right parties to join a coalition.

Mesut Yilmaz and Tansu Ciller (both former prime ministers, broke up their alliance after three months amid hostile personal rivalry.



Speaking from behind the fence keeping him from attending the multi-party talks yesterday, Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams talks with the media outside Stormont's Castle Buildings. Sinn Fein, which won 17 seats in elections held May 30, is being excluded for its failure to secure an IRA cease-fire. (Reuters)

Talks open with Sinn Fein outside

News agencies BELFAST

BARRED from long-delayed peace negotiations, the IRA's political allies got a foot in the door yesterday by being allowed into the building but not the talks.

"Sinn Fein are not at today's talks because there has been no restoration of the August 1994 cease-fire," the British and Irish governments said in a joint statement about an hour before the formal opening.

A 15-strong delegation from the Irish republican party were kept outside the venue as British and Irish premiers John Major and John Bruton said the talks could turn the page on a dark history.

Inside, nine parties - representing both the Protestant majority and the Roman Catholic minority - took their places for negotiations chaired by former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, President Clinton's key adviser on Northern Ireland.

"For too long the history of Northern Ireland has poisoned the present and threatened the future. It is time to end all that, however difficult it may be," Major said.

"History has involved too many victims. Too much blood has been spilt. For too long violence became so much a part of the political background that it almost began to be taken for granted," he told delegates.

"No one should be afraid to compromise," Major said. "It would be easy to prevent an

agreement in these talks, and hard to forge one. But no one can deny which is the better outcome, and it all depends on you."

Major and Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said they would not budge from their demand for an IRA cease-fire.

"That position is rooted in democracy. Our insistence on this core value can come as no surprise to Sinn Fein," Bruton said in his opening remarks.

Live television coverage was not permitted except for brief images of delegates sitting in place. Jim Dougal, chief political correspondent for the BBC in Northern Ireland, said government officials gave no explanation of the decision to restrict coverage.

Television crews were left with nothing to cover except the Sinn Fein group, which was allowed through the main gates but only to meet with civil servants. Senior British and Irish officials have refused to meet Sinn Fein since the IRA resumed its bombing campaign in February.

Although there were just the 15 Sinn Fein delegates and perhaps half as many bodyguards, a swarm of some 200 journalists and camera crews around them as they arrived jammed the main entrance to the Stormont

complex of government buildings.

"We are not going to be treated like second class citizens. We would like the gates open, OK?" Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, told a British official before the gates were opened.

"It's only a small step," McGuinness added with a smile.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams led a delegation including convicted IRA bomber Gerard Kelly, into the Stormont complex, the headquarters of the British administration in Northern Ireland.

Mitchell met inside with the Rev. Ian Paisley, the hard-line Protestant leader who had threatened to walk out of the negotiations because of the IRA role given to Mitchell.

In February, Major and Bruton announced the June 10 deadline for talks, calculating that a fixed date would soothe IRA supporters' anger at the slow pace of the peace process.

The IRA had complained of the slow pace of the peace process when it ended its 17-month truce Feb. 9 with a truck bomb in London that killed two men.

"You cannot expect people in a democracy to sit down and negotiate the future of part of their country with people who rely on the threat of violence if they don't get what they want," Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew said on the BBC.

Commuter hydrofoil overturns off Naples

News agencies NAPLES

A hydrofoil packed with commuters and weekend tourists struck rocks and capsized off a small island in the Bay of Naples yesterday, killing four people and tossing scores of passengers into the sea.

The dead, all Italians, included sisters aged 75 and 62 and another woman of 69, hospital officials said. The body of a man of about 70 was also recovered.

About 50 people were treated for injuries.

The hydrofoil ferry had about 157 passengers and crew on board when it smashed into rocks in thick fog off the island of Procida as it headed towards the nearby port city of Naples at about 8:45 a.m.

Officials said the evacuation of the ship was relatively orderly, with passengers and crew having time to put on life vests before the boat took on water and turned on its side.

The survivors swam to shore or were picked up by fishing boats and pleasure craft in Procida port.

The high-speed boat which skims the water began its morning run by taking aboard some 90 commuters headed for Procida from the resort island of Ischia, then took on about 60 more passengers from Procida, a small island closer to shore.

The boat apparently hit the reef just after pulling away from Procida's dock and overturned, dumping the passengers into the sea.

"The island was covered by heavy fog at the time," said a spokesman for the paramilitary Carabinieri, Luigi Sebe.

Most of the passengers started swimming the 200 meters back to a tiny beach, where fishermen went out to rescue them.

Most of the passengers were treated by medical crews on the dockside and at the island's small hospital. The most seriously injured were taken by boat to hospitals on the mainland.

The hydrofoil Procida, with a crew of 15, is part of the fleet of SNAV, one of several companies whose hydrofoils and ferries run regular commuter and tourist services between Naples and the islands of Capri, Ischia and Procida, as well as popular Mediterranean coastal resorts.

Procida is an island of fishermen that was one of the island's where the award-winning film *Il Postino* (The Postman) was shot.

Writer who scandalized Japan dead at 98

TOKYO (AP) - Chiyo Uno, a pioneering female writer whose tempestuous love affairs scandalized Japan in the 1920s and '30s, died yesterday at age 98.

Born November 28, 1897, in western Yamaguchi prefecture, Uno made her first splash on Tokyo's literary scene in 1921 by winning first prize in a short-story contest.

She abandoned her first husband, a banker, and plunged into a series of love affairs with members of Tokyo's bohemia.

The most spectacular came in 1930 with painter Seiji Togo, who a year earlier had attempted to commit double suicide with a different lover.

Entranced by accounts of the failed suicide, Uno introduced herself to the painter. The two began a love affair at once and lived together for several years, although they were never legally married.

However, Togo began to tire of the relationship and began an

affair with Mitsuko Nishizaki, the woman with whom he had tried to kill himself. Nishizaki had married someone else but divorced him to marry Togo.

It made for blaring headlines in the newspapers of the day. But Uno was already no stranger to the gossip pages; in 1927 she scandalized the nation by pioneering a short bobbed haircut.

The haircut was so radical, recounts Rebecca Copeland in *The Winds of Wind: The Life and Works of Uno Chiyo*, that children in Uno's neighborhood ran away shrieking when they saw her.

The affair with Togo led to Uno's first enduring work, *Confessions of Love* (1935), which along with several other novels and short stories has been translated into English.

The story is based on Togo's many love affairs and depicts the decadence of Japan's roaring '20s. Uno also designed kimonos and in 1936 she founded *Style*, Japan's first fashion magazine.

Russia, Chechen rebels sign peace agreement

NAZRAN (Reuters) - Russian and rebel Chechen negotiators signed an agreement yesterday intended to end 18 months of fighting in the breakaway Chechnya region.

The agreement, read out to reporters at the signing ceremony, provided for a withdrawal of Russian troops by the end of August and a demilitarization of Chechnya - a term meaning the disarmament of rebel Chechen forces seeking independence.

The agreement allows for local elections to be held in Chechnya only after the Russian troop withdrawal, removing an obstacle that had been blocking agreement. Moscow had wanted a parliamentary election held next Sunday.

President Boris Yeltsin has said ending the conflict is important to his chances of winning Russia's presidential election.

Alaska fire 60 percent contained

HOUSTON, Alaska (AP) - Federal disaster officials toured the site of a week-old Alaska wildfire as cool, damp weather helped contain the blaze that burned 15,000 hectares and caused \$10 million in damage.

Firefighters had contained 60 percent of the blaze and it was expected to be fully contained by last night, but won't be safely out for weeks, said Fire Commander Dave Liebersbach.

The fire destroyed or damaged more than 360 buildings at a cost of nearly \$10 million and forced at least 1,800 people to evacuate. Crews searched residential areas for hot spots and hoped to allow some of the residents back into their homes by yesterday evening.

The cause of the blaze, which burned through an area about 80 kms north of Anchorage, was unknown. Wildfires also burned in Arizona and New Mexico.

In Mongolia, exhausted civilian firefighters were sent home but professionals stayed on to battle huge grassland and forest blazes that have killed 25 people in the last two months.

"Now we have to stop using civilians in firefighting. They have worn out their horses and burnt their clothes," said Civil Defense head General Damdinsuren.

Wind-blown blazes that have roared across Mongolia since mid-April have killed 25 people, injured more than 60 and devoured at least 88,000 sq km of Mongolia's grassland and forest.

The more than 380 fires, of which eight still raged out of control, have also killed thousands of head of livestock and dealt the nation's already fragile economy a heavy blow.

"The fires have not stopped and will continue for at least another 10 days," Damdinsuren said.

Lure of West turns sour for thousands of women

VIENNA (REUTERS) - European Commissioner Anita Gradin told a conference yesterday a harrowing tale of a Polish mother-of-four forced into prostitution in Germany after falling for empty promises of a good life in the West.

Justice Commissioner Gradin told delegates the unemployed 30-year-old had been lured from her home by a businessman who said he could get her well-paid work in Germany as a waitress.

Instead she was raped and blackmailed.

"If she refused to work as a prostitute she was warned her family would receive pictures of her ordeal in the mail," Gradin said.

The Commissioner, who is chairing the European Commission's two-day conference on trafficking in women, said the Polish woman was an example of a growing slave trade in Europe and represented thousands in a similar situation.

"No country is completely free of trade in women...They are driven away by poor conditions in their home country and forced into a deplorable life. It's a shame for all our countries," Gradin said.

The European Union estimates there are between 200,000 and 500,000 women living outside their countries as prostitutes, most of them victims of organized prostitution rings.

They are smuggled over borders, stripped of their papers and rights and forced into prostitution. Harsh treatment and exposure to diseases like AIDS go with the territory.

In many countries foreign prostitutes far outnumber nationals. In Germany, foreign prostitutes make up about 75 percent of the total, in Italy 80 percent. In Austria, some 85 percent of women working in bars and brothels are from abroad, mostly from the ex-communist states of Eastern Europe.

Gradin said trafficking in women had surged over the past five years, arguing that European nations had a duty to help the victims of the cruel trade.

EU blasts Britain over blocking tactics

LUXEMBOURG (Reuters) - Britain's European Union partners rounded on it angrily yesterday for blocking EU decisions but said progress towards solving the "beef war" was still possible before next week's EU summit.

In a clear sign of the growing fury at Britain, Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind faced a barrage of protests from his counterparts at a meeting in Luxembourg.

"All the ministers deplored the method of indiscriminate boycotting of EU decisions," Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini said.

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said the reaction "ranged from irritation to exasperation" and one official described the anger at Britain as being unlike anything he had seen before at a ministerial meeting.

"I fear the British are about to do themselves in," said de Charette, telling Britain it must drop its tactics before the EU summit in Florence on June 21 and 22.

Britain has been blocking EU business requiring unanimity as a way of forcing its partners to agree a framework for lifting a worldwide ban on exports of beef.

The beef ban was imposed in March amid a health scare that mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), could be transferred to humans.

Yesterday, Rifkind blocked at least 10 items, including a statement on East Timor, which had earlier been held up at London's request after a group of Britons and others were kidnapped there.

But in what Rifkind said was a "gesture of goodwill", London agreed not to block Slovenia's association agreement, approval for the Commission to draft a trade pact with Algeria, and voting money for monitoring Bosnia's elections.

Diplomats said the Algeria move was something of a "thank you" to French President Jacques Chirac for supporting Britain.

Dini, the chairman, welcomed the deal and said flexibility could create a solution.

Noting that the Commission, the EU's executive, was working with Britain on a framework plan for eradicating BSE and a phased end to the ban, Dini said: "If we proceed in a spirit of cooperation then I think progress could be made."

Though he doubted whether all the details of the framework could be agreed before the Florence summit, he raised the prospect of a gradual defusing of the beef crisis.

"Once a framework program

has been examined and progress is being made, we hope the U.K. will adopt a more flexible approach though it may not entirely eliminate its boycott program," Dini said.

Many EU governments have made clear, however, that they want cast-iron assurances that proper controls on BSE are in place in Britain before they even contemplate easing the ban further. Veterinary experts from the 15 EU countries will have to give their view on the framework plan before it can be agreed.

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The cease-fire is over

THE full scale resumption of Hizbullah's guerrilla activities in Lebanon, which cost the lives of five Israeli soldiers yesterday, and the return of terrorist strikes in Israel, which caused two fatalities on Sunday, should come as no surprise.

The understandings in Lebanon, reached under the pressure of an outraged world reaction to the Kana tragedy, were flimsy and treacherous, and bound to be short-lived. As Prime Minister Shimon Peres said on his pre-election trip to the US, they were expected to hold only until after the elections.

The renewed escalation also belies Foreign Minister Ehud Barak's charges that Hizbullah and its Iranian and Syrian sponsors wanted to topple the Peres government. If anything, the Syrians seem to have agreed to help Peres's election campaign by keeping the Lebanon front calm until May 29. Their near-panic at Netanyahu's election is a symptom of bitter disappointment.

Similarly, Yasser Arafat did his best to keep the Islamists and radicals from mounting major terrorist operations against Israel during the campaign. Hamas, which in December concluded an agreement with the PLO not to launch attacks against Israel from areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority, has also collaborated fully in the aid-Peres campaign.

Arafat's other contributions included a tacit approval of the delay in the Israeli withdrawal from Hebron, and an agreement to keep his protests against the prolonged and painful closure perfunctory and minimal. Even Israel's General Security Service lent a hand by arranging a meeting between Hamas officials from Gaza and jailed Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin for the purpose of ensuring a Hamas cease-fire until the elections.

But now all this is over. Terrorism would

have resumed no matter who became the Israeli premier. The post-election shock in the PLO and Hamas, the backlash against Arafat for failing to deliver a Peres victory, and the desire to test the new government's mettle will inevitably lead to a terrorist offensive.

Until he is sworn in as prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu cannot act; but he can prepare himself and his partners in government for the coming challenge. What he must not do is repeat the empty, frustration-bred slogans of his predecessors. Calling for a "separation" between Arabs and Israelis, forming useless committees "to coordinate the battle against terrorism," pledging merciless pursuit of the culprits, and asserting that there is no military solution to the problem are designed to assuage public pain. They cannot defeat terrorism.

True, total victory against state-sponsored terrorist groups may be impossible without full international cooperation. But if one thing is certain it is that appeasing such groups only increases their appetite. If Netanyahu intends to depart from this appeasement policy, he will have to replace its advocates - both in government and the security services - with those who believe in winning the battle.

Ultimately, Israel must do no more than what any country would do if a neighboring entity sheltered terrorist groups and let them recruit, organize, train, and mastermind operations from areas under its control: It must hold this entity responsible and act accordingly.

If the hiatus in terrorist activities in the three pre-election months proves anything, it is that both Syria and the PA are capable of stopping guerrilla and terrorist activities when they want to do so. The inexorable conclusion is that if a major campaign of violence is now launched against Israeli targets, Syria and the PA should be viewed as its direct sponsors.

Labor's bickering

THERE is something both unpleasant and unnecessary about the bickering in the Labor Party. It may be only natural for leaders of a defeated party to point accusing fingers at each other and try to avoid blame for the debacle - particularly because the expectations of victory were so great. (As Interior Minister Haim Ramon told *The Jerusalem Post* last year, the law for the direct election of the premier was devised to ensure the Labor candidate's election, and there was no way a Likud candidate could win.)

But while the disappointment and acrimony in Labor ranks are understandable, the exclusive concentration on campaign tactics as the cause of the defeat insults the voters' intelligence. The most relevant fact about this year's election is that it was billed, with complete justification, as a momentous decision on the

country's future. That 56 percent of the Jewish population voted for Benjamin Netanyahu means that the electorate rejected Prime Minister Shimon Peres's policies by a landslide.

To suppose that better polling of public opinion and slicker campaign commercials could have changed these voters' minds is to display odious condescension. It would be far more constructive to examine what caused the rejection of Labor's policies.

Such a reassessment is particularly necessary if Netanyahu decides against forming a national unity government. To act as an effective opposition, the Labor Party must unite behind a leader able to reform its policies and articulate them persuasively. It should stop vindictive internal accusations and prepare to perform the important tasks of an active opposition in a democratic parliament.



When groupthink rules

WITH Benjamin Netanyahu elected prime minister, the international community is worried about the fate of peace. Has Israel rejected it?

Something has happened to the word peace. It has become so infused with groupthink associations that it has been emptied of any coherent content.

And the confusion has become compounded by the fact that many Israelis now use the term in the same way as the international community.

If people got blown up in the streets in the US on a frequent basis, no one would call that peace. The explosions at the World Trade Center and in Oklahoma City didn't make anyone think of peace - on the contrary. The main public reactions were outrage, and a desire to punish the perpetrators.

Presumably, then, if terrorists responsible for murdering Americans were to flee regularly to, say, an adjacent political entity called Westland where they were given asylum by its government, no one would say that government was friendly to America or its partner in a peace process.

Imagine, further, that the Westland government was legally committed to extradite terrorists wanted for murder to the US, yet refused to do so.

The US attorney-general meets with his Westland counterpart, repeatedly writes letters to him demanding that terrorists who have murdered American citizens be turned over - to no avail. Indeed, the terrorists in question

are known to circulate freely in Westland, and even serve in its security forces.

Let us go still further. Not only are terrorists given asylum in Westland, they are allowed to train, proselytize, propagandize,

And while Israel has been spared terrorist acts as horrendous in their toll as the Oklahoma City bombing, it has suffered a far greater number of terrorist strikes, as well as smaller-scale acts of terrorism, while having a population about two percent the size of America's.

All this describes only the situation between Israel and the PA.

No less significantly, however, terrorist attacks against Israel's army and civilians in southern Lebanon and northern Israel have continued and worsened, in the midst of what we are told is a peace process with the Syrian and Lebanese governments.

It is quite clear that what has been happening over the past three years would not, in any normal usage of the word, be termed peace. Seen in this light, it may be easier to understand that a majority of Israelis decided they wanted a change.

With the Peres government avowing its determination to continue along the same path, a majority of Israelis rejected that path precisely out of the conviction that, as more and more cities and areas were hastily handed over to PA control, it was likely to bring more terror and destruction.

They voted for a change out of the hope that a new government might bring about a situation more closely approximating something that may genuinely called peace.

Suppose, finally, that the president of Westland himself regularly calls for holy war against America.

SupSTITUTE "Israel" and "Palestinian Authority" for the US and Westland, and all of these things - and more - have happened over the past three years.

And acquire huge quantities of weapons and explosives there, all with the non-interference - which can only translate as tacit approval - of the Westland government.

One would have to imagine that, after US security forces manage to assassinate a particularly bloody terrorist who lives there, not only do hundreds of thousands of Westland citizens attend his funeral or hold memorial rallies; the president of Westland eulogizes him at the funeral and orders a 21-gun salute.

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Stop the whining

FIONA SHARPE

THE election didn't turn out the way I wanted.

I voted for Peres because I believed he would bring about the kind of Middle East I wanted to be part of. And I voted for Meretz because, while I grew up in an Orthodox home, I believe that religion should be encouraged and nurtured, not coerced and enforced, that Judaism is freedom of choice, respect for the individual, and for others around us.

To me Meretz demonstrated a clear respect for man and woman-kind combined with a willingness to fight for religious pluralism.

I clearly was not in the majority in my opinions.

And yes, I am still having a very hard time saying "Prime Minister Netanyahu."

I worry too about that "other" separation of our capital if the religious parties are allowed to turn back the clock on the status quo.

HAVING said all that, I am sick and tired of listening to friends both here and in America whine about the end of Israel as we know it. Why, even my two-year-old knows that whining doesn't help.

I see this tendency to moan as the greatest problem of today's left-wing, liberal community, here and in the US.

Where's the passion, the determination to do something for our children, the will to fight to make it better next time?

When the right wing is defeated and goes into opposition, its people fight back - not always in ways I agree with, but they do make their voices heard.

They are loud and often obnoxious, but they are out there on the front lines, making sure no one forgets about them or what they stand for.

Where's the left's passion, its will to fight to make it better next time?

The left wing? It's forgotten how to do that.

Maybe we've all become just a little too complacent, a little too sure that ours is the right path, that we deserve to win.

Judging by most of the election postmortems, many in Labor Party headquarters suffer from the same affliction.

How many of us are involved in grassroots organizations here? How many of us did anything more than put stickers on our cars or hang a banner out of our windows during the election season?

Israel is here to stay, and no change of government is going to change that.

The peace process may slow down a little. Things may not happen according to the timetable we had all become familiar with.

But the path has been chosen and already taken. Nobody can alter the direction Israel has forged for itself into the 21st century.

When you look at the path of modern Israeli history since the founding of the state in 1948, when you think back to the wars that have been fought and won, the accomplishments this very young state and its leaders have forged, it is amazing that some people can frenziedly believe Bibi as prime minister can singlehandedly overturn all those achievements.

Let's be rational. This is no dictator who seized power during a coup d'etat, but an educated man concerned with his own public image and standing in the world political arena, a man who was elected by a majority of the Israeli public.

Granted, it was a small majority - but wasn't it Labor, borrowing from the Likud, that said a majority of one was still a majority?

So let's quit talking about packing our bags and leaving. Let's stay to fight, to commit ourselves, as the right wing would have done had the chips fallen the other way. Let's do more to further our vision of what Israel should be. This is still a democracy, with elections every four years.

And to our friends in the US who speak of a rift between Israel and the American Jewish community because of different ideals, even threatening the withdrawal of philanthropic dollars: Isn't this the moment for you to be supporting the 49.5% of us that make up the new minority here?

Isn't it about time for you to realize that in Israeli politics democracy will always win out over the dollar, even if personal preferences favored?

The writer is a political consultant living in Jerusalem.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOOD FOR THE JEWS

Sir, - The last straw that broke my Zionist back fell on the day before the election. Someone issued a slogan: Netanyahu is good for the Jews! Peres said this was dirty politics. Avraham Burg said this was racism. And even Netanyahu himself had to dissociate himself from the slogan.

The first thing I want to know is what would Peres have thought if the slogan had been Peres is good for the Jews. The second thing I want to know is: Was this state founded as a Jewish state or not? Is it wrong in the state of the Jews to ask, whether a candidate is good for the Jews or to state "I think even in New York, which is not a state of the Jews, a candidate could safely say that he was good for the Jews!" I became accustomed to being told that Israel does not have to be religious. In fact, I was told that in order to be democratic, it must not be religious, not officially. But must Israel stop being a Jewish state, secular Jewish, in order to be democratic and avoid the charge of racism?

How ironic. Just when the UN has rescinded its Zionism-is-racism resolution, we are being told that it is racist to be Jewish, to make the statement that a candidate is good for the Jews!

Is it racist for an Arab to say that a candidate is good for the Arabs? Is it racist for an Israeli Arab to vote for Peres because he is better for the Arabs?

In short, it is racist to be Jewish? RABBI JACOB CHINTZ Jerusalem.

BRAVO!

Sir, - *Kol hakavod* to Sarah Honig for her article of May 29: "Israel must be good for the Jews." In addition to being a good reporter, she is also a good Jew. ARNOLD AND MARILYN CYTRIN Jerusalem.

WOMAN'S WORK

Sir, - Esther Hertzog, tucking tongue halfway into cheek, suggests that women should cast their votes for hardy parties because "absurd as it sounds, the haredim seem to be doing a better job of representing our interests than we are doing ourselves" (May 16).

Ms. Hertzog is to be corrected on two points - one ideological and the other political.

On the ideological level, it is not absurd that respect for women and the indispensable role played by each gender should be manifested in a society based upon the importance of family values. Too often, the modern observer confuses the well-defined male/female relationships in religious society as a denigration of women when, in truth, it is precisely the opposite. It is a clear and consistent daily reminder of the importance of the individual and the essential function that the individual performs - as man or woman - in a healthy society.

On the political level, Ms. Hertzog can meet her needs without leaving the Zionist camp. The Amata Lema'an Haya'el, a non-political organization, evaluates Knesset members according to their parliamentary activities in support of social legislation, particularly in the areas of child welfare, single parents, support of broken families and other associated family topics. Of the seven highest-ranked MKs, five are women. Most interesting, the two men in this group are Rabbi Yitzhak Levy, NRP (No. 1), and Shaul Yahalom, NRP (No. 5). These men, products and promulgators of religious Zionism, are essentially "doing woman's work" based upon their understanding of the social ramifications of Torah law.

JAY SHAPIRO Givat Shimon.

BRITISH OVERSEAS ELECTORS

Sir, - The next British General Election will probably be held in April or May next year. That means that there is one last opportunity for British citizens to register as overseas electors. This is a final chance to have a say in the election of a government which will see Britain and its place in the world into the next millennium. May I appeal, through the columns of your paper, for as many as possible to seize that opportunity and have a say in the government which represents them around the world.

British citizens who have lived in the UK within the last 20 years are eligible to vote. To do so, they have to complete a form by October 10 this year. Forms can be obtained from British consulates or by writing to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, or faxing me on +44 171 799-2317. Please state how many forms you require.

In the past, there have been some concerns that voting in Britain could, for some expatriates, incur the danger of taxation. The 1996 Finance Act has finally and indisputably removed any such fear.

MICHAEL COLVIN, M.P., Chairman, Conservatives Abroad London.

JEWISH MONEY IN SWITZERLAND

Sir, - Now that the Swiss banks and Jewish organizations have reached agreement to investigate heinous assets with Swiss banks, attention should be drawn to large fortunes which were placed with Swiss insurance companies, lawyers and trustees, and especially large amounts of money which were placed by Jews (using often Swiss trustees or friends) in real estate.

JIZCHAK BERNAYS Zurich.

Dina Eldor: An authentic touch Moving mountains at Habimah

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

TWO years ago, producer Dina Eldor started what many deemed an act of professional and financial suicide by initiating a subscription series of early-music concerts, the first of its kind in Israel.

Eldor has almost singlehandedly changed several common beliefs and trends. First she organized a series in which she is a partner with the Jerusalem Music Center - the first time a private and public artistic organization have collaborated to such an extent in Israel.

Also on the program are other early-music ensembles making their Israeli debut including the Camerata Köln playing music by Bach, Telemann and Vivaldi, Il Seminario Musicale from France performing cantatas and airs by Charpentier, Monteverdi, Scarlatti and others; Britain's leading viol consort Fretwork presenting fantasias, pavanés, galliards and songs by Bryans, Byrd and Jenkins on the one hand and even composers like Elvis Costello and Michael Nyman on the other; and the Kujiken brothers trio from Belgium with renowned harpsichordist Gustav Leonhardt playing an evening of Bach.

The 1996/97 Authentica season opens with a special gala concert by the European Union Baroque Orchestra under Roy Goodman at the Mann Auditorium on October 5, playing music by Scarlatti, Marais, Zelenka, Vivaldi and Bach. Subscriptions and tickets to the third Authentica early-music concert series are now on sale.

MEDIEVAL Japan is about as far away from current local reality as anyone could get, and playwright Gilad Evron, 40, went there for *Har Lo Za* ("Unmoving Mountain"), his newest play, which opens on Thursday at the Habimah National Theater.

HELEN KAYE move, says a line in the drama - Takada's name means The Mountain. It's true that your reach should always exceed your grasp, but for that to work, you need to know where your limits are, you need to be able to distinguish between reality and illusion.

teaching methods and course of studies seemed irrelevant. Today's art is highly individualistic with no feeling of responsibility for what's going on.

Gaelic majesty

IN TUNE DAVID BRINN

COMMON GROUND Voices of Modern Irish Music (NMC)

TRADITIONAL Irish music conjures up visions of rolling green hills and crashing white waves. I don't mean the four-leafed-clover music of the Irish Rovers, but rather the majestic music of the Chieftains and the Clancy Brothers. On *Common Ground*, you'll find the hills, the waves and more.



Donal Lunny (far right) is the brainchild of 'Common Ground,' which features musicians as diverse as Bono and Adam Clayton.

The brainchild of Irish musician Donal Lunny, who played on and arranged every track, *Common Ground* captures rockers of Irish descent as well as native sons searching for the link between Celtic and rock, with charming results.

like Blue Suede's "Hooked on a Feeling" (Remember ooga chucks ooga chucks?) from Steven Wright's wonderfully bad '70s radio show from the film *Reservoir Dogs*, it gives the impression that you're listening to Top 40 radio run amok.

Still, the pleasure of hearing The Byrds' "Turn, Turn, Turn" and the O'Jays' "Backstoppers" is always worth plowing through the pits.

Wynette "Backstoppers" - O'Jays

Send answers to IN TUNE, c/o David Brinn, Jerusalem Post POB 81, Romema 91000

The first correct answer received will win the CD. To be fair to computer-challenged people, E-mail will not be accepted.

Standout tracks include Crowded House founders Tim and Neil Finn's lilting "Mary of the South Seas," written especially for the project. Sinead O'Connor's delicate interpretation of "On Raglan Road" and Kate Bush's rousing turn in Gaelic, "Mna Na H-Eireann."

Together they create a sparkling backdrop for Ure's spiritual lyrics and uplifting melodies.

IN TUNE CONTEST #1 Name the movies from the '90s whose sound tracks contained the following songs from *Songs from the Movies II* and you'll win the CD.

Drive Carefully! Arrive Safely!

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15 table with columns for Rank, Week, Artist, Title, and Album.

These are small criticisms to be sure, on a largely successful attempt to bridge the past and the present.

What's next, Human League unplugged?

What a weird collection! Any compilation that can include both Tammy Wynette's "Stand By Your Man" and Sly and the Family Stone's "If You Want Me To Stay," has some conceptual problems.

There is much joy, even humor, in the South Indian tradition where the *ghatam* clay-pot percussionist Vinayakram joins in with amusing rhythmic surprises.

The triumphant return of Gisele Ben-Dor

BENJAMIN BAR-AM

ONE really cannot imagine a harsher punishment for an orchestra than to be forced to play in a hall which distorts its sound and hides its true potential.

phony, both emerged as tightly knit, logically developing pieces. The accuracy with which orchestral parts come together and merge under Ben-Dor is remarkable.

Indian wizardry spun at Israel Festival

CONCERT ROUNDUP

WHAT made the performance of Zakir Hussain's Indian Percussion Ensemble and Bansuri flutist Hariprasad Chaurasia a unique event is that, in Hussain's own words, "it will never happen again."

An equally unsolved question is, at what precise point the extremely slow and meditative opening of Hussain and Chaurasia's *Noon Raga* begins to develop into an ecstatically fast celebration - so gradually and imperceptibly does the transformation take place.

THE Bach Solo Sonatas and Partitas were treated by Austrian violinist Thomas Zehetmair, in his recital, as the secular works that they are, divesting them of the stately and academic ceremonialism with which they are often rendered.

itself but remains a means for the purposes of the music itself.

and, in the two last movements, also the profound somberness that is a forerunner of his later, more mature works.

This is particularly sad given that the orchestra is such a lovely body with a record of remarkable achievements, and with such untapped potential.

The Grieg piano concerto was played by the 22-year-old Israeli pianist-composer Gil Shochat who undoubtedly proved his mettle.

Table drummers Hussain and his father Ustad Allarakha's manual dexterity and split-second accuracy in the most intricate rhythms, and Chaurasia's virtuosity all border on wizardry.

His capacity of rendering the multiple polyphonic parts of a fugue with meticulous transparency on the solo violin is remarkable.

His virtuosity in playing the fast movements with such fast tempi is extraordinary. All this is achieved without breathlessness or any sense of hurry.

AFTER a somewhat restrained, not so singing Schubert Quartet (in A minor), Shostakovich's Quartet No. 3 emerged as the highlight of the Emerson String Quartet's first concert.

On a more lighthearted level, Dvorak's American Quartet sparkled with joy, drive, songfulness and rhythmic freshness. The sense of togetherness and consolidation by these four players is a realization of the true chamber music spirit.

Gruesome 'Merchant' also gripping in parts

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

By William Shakespeare. Direction, Hanan Snir. Set, Roni Toren. Costumes, Wally Lindner-Belardine. Music, Alexandra Holbach. Devises National Theater Weizatz at the Sherover Theater, Jerusalem (Performed at the Israel Festival on June 1). Hebrew title, *Hasofer Mivonca*.

ever controversial play. Antisemitic or not, here the question of guilt is subtly and visually - if not verbally (for the text remains intact) - turned off the Jews and onto their German tormentors.

(Henning Orphal) with the roles was at times so harrowing and horrendous, it was almost more than one could bear.

school-level farce. If essential as light relief, its effect is feeble when the drag queens, Portia and an enchanting Nerissa (Daniel Graf), turn up at the famous court scene.

Presenting such a rich, ancient non-European tradition in its undiluted, pure form by some of its foremost exponents is one of the predominant reasons d'être for the Israel Festival.

The performance had all the composer's bite, irony, energy

Jerusalem Theater, June 8.

NOWADAYS a Shake-spearean production that fails to shake us up is unlikely to find a stage. Hanan Snir's version of *The Merchant*, played by SS officers and their Jewish prisoners in a concentration camp, must be the quintessential controversial treatment of that for-

But all will squirm. To me, the opening juxtaposition of the SS men's drag cabaret act with the line-up of their naked concentration camp victims forced to play the roles of the Jews, was as gripping as it was gruesome.

Less successful however is his homosexual treatment of the Venetian nobility. Intended as an ironic commentary on the Nazi contempt of gays, it forces Portia and friends into what is facetious, high-

Finally, with the chilling execution of the victims there is a dramatic recoup of the concentration-camp theme.

Their subsequent symbolic resurrection as silent, accusing ghosts is, however, less effective because extraneous and, like the court scene, barely credible.

Advertisement for 'VIEWPOINTS' by The Ra'anana Municipality, The Jerusalem Post and ESRA. Subject: 'ISRAEL TOWARDS THE 21ST CENTURY'. Panel: Prof. Mordechai Sokolov, Technological Analysis & Forecasting; Dr. Alon Liel, Director General of the Ministry of Economy and Planning; Dr. Chaim Assa, Strategic Advisor to the late Yitzhak Rabin. Moderator: Dr. Yoram Peri. The Venue: The Auditorium of Yad Lebanim, 147 Ahuza St., Ra'anana. Date: Sunday, 16th June, 1996, at 8.30 p.m. Cost: NIS 15.00. Any further info: Ruth Lee 09-7743861 / 7740887.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

'95 budget deficit at 3.2% of GDP

DAVID HARRIS and Jerusalem Post Staff

THE budget deficit for 1995 totaled NIS 8.4 billion, or 3.2 percent of the gross domestic product, the accountant general at the Finance Ministry announced yesterday.

Initial estimates at the start of the year predicted that the fiscal deficit would be 3.47% of GDP.

However, in light of 1995's sharply higher-than-planned trade and current-account deficits, a consensus has emerged among economists, both in academia and at the Bank of Israel, that the government should slash its deficit to 2.5% of GDP.

Last year's trade balance, which measures the gap between goods entering and leaving the country, reached a record deficit of \$11.1b., while the current-account deficit, which measures the gap between foreign currency earned and spent, reached \$4.1b.

Treasury officials emphasized that in comparison with budget deficits elsewhere in Western countries, Israel's situation cannot in any way be considered severe.

However, the central bank said that considering Israel's overall deficit problem and its evidently negative impact on consumer prices so far this year, the new government will have to pursue a decisively restrictive fiscal policy in order to stem inflationary pressures and insure long-term growth.

Mutual funds assets down 8.4% so far this year

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MUTUAL funds assets fell 8.4 percent in the first five months of the year to NIS 16.1 billion from NIS 17.47b. at the end of 1995, according to Meitav, an investment firm that reports on the mutual fund industry.

The drop was mainly due to high redemptions, which reflect the public's preference for investing in shekel deposits and saving plans with a reasonable yield.

Redemptions were NIS 15b. in the reported period.

Meitav's mutual fund index has increased 0.5% since the start of the year, slightly contributing to the decrease in the funds' assets.

According to Meitav, all the funds suffered from redemptions. The largest wave of redemptions were from share funds, which totaled NIS 815m.

This was followed by the flexible funds, which suffered redemptions of NIS 359m., and state bonds, with redemptions of NIS 195m.

Abeles: Exposure of banks to real estate sector nears red line

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE banking sector's exposure to loans from an apparently overheated real estate sector has "exhausted themselves," Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles said yesterday.

Speaking upon the release of his annual report on the banking sector, Abeles said the overall profits of the nation's five leading banks rose last year to NIS 1.7 billion from NIS 1.4b. in 1994.

Return on equity rose from 7.3 percent to 8.4%, 2.1 percentage points higher than the annual average of the past 10 years.

Abeles reported a rise in the

banks' retail competitiveness, particularly in commission rates from small-time depositors and a simplification of procedures involving the transfer of a customer's account from one bank to another.

Concerning the granting of credit by various bank branches to purchasers of securities, Abeles reported the receipt of 1,619 complaints from the public alleging inducement from bank clerks to engage in such activity. The central bank curtailed this kind of loan in 1994, after it fed the stock

market fall the previous spring. As for their loans to the real estate sector, Abeles said the banks' unpaid loans for contractors have expanded annually by 27% over the past four years in real terms, while the corresponding figure vis-a-vis the general public stood at 13%.

Citing the increasing uncertainty in which the real estate sector is operating, its high level of concentration and its excessively high ratio of credit-to-product, Abeles said the banking sector has reached the limit of lending ability to builders.



A Serb woman from Modrica plays with a Nintendo Gameboy in the shade of a car in the market in Porebrice, north of Tuzla. Trade at the market has boosted since the signing of the Dayton peace accord last year. (Reuter)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

BIRD approves 14 new projects: The Israel-US Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation (BIRD) has approved 14 new projects totaling \$9.6 million, representing a 50-percent share in the overall cost of the projects.

The US and Israeli companies participating in the projects — which are in the fields of electronics, software, communications, environment and medicine — include Motorola, Bausch and Lomb, Packard Bell, Magic Software, ComStream Israel and InfoGear Technologies.

BIRD, established to stimulate mutually beneficial cooperation between the private sectors of the high-tech industry in both countries, provides matchmaking services between US and Israeli companies. Jennifer Friedlin

Point of Sale, an Israeli software developer for the retail market, has been hired to upgrade the computer systems used by Nandos Chickland, an international fast-food chain.

The project will begin with local branches of the chain and then entail computerizing the remainder of the company's 150 branches located around the world. Point of Sale has installed its products in more than 6,000 stores worldwide. Jennifer Friedlin

Israel Credit Cards, the distributor of Visa Credit Cards, has won the accountant general tender for credit-card payments to government ministries.

As a result, it will be possible to pay for driving licenses, passports, police fines and other payments using Visa. In reaction, Isracard, Visa's major competitor, said the other credit cards will have to offer the accountant general similar conditions to those offered by Visa so that their customers will also be able to make credit card payments. Galit Lipkis Beck

IBM, Storage Technology in product pact: International Business Machines Corp. has signed on Storage Technology Corp. to manufacture storage subsystems for the computer giant, the companies said yesterday. Financial terms were not disclosed.

The deal immediately broadens IBM's family of disk storage products while greatly increasing StorageTek's distribution for those products, they said.

The US-based Storage Technology will make storage subsystems that it currently sells under the brand names Iceberg, Kodiak and Arctic Fox. IBM will change the names to IBM RAMAC Virtual Array Storage, IBM RAMAC Scalable Array Storage and IBM RAMAC Electronic Array Storage. Reuter

British Telecom-MCI deal seen easing Internet access: A deal between British Telecommunications Plc and MCI Communications Corp. of the US heralds an era of quicker, easier access for both companies and individuals to the Internet. British Telecommunications Plc and its partner MCI Communications Corp. of the US said they plan to raise the capacity of the Internet, the dominant global network of personal computers, by 30 percent.

The partnership, through their Concert alliance, which includes more than 30 other companies, would combine eight existing hubs initially, expanding to 20 across the world within a year. The hubs handle requests to ride the Internet. Reuter

Kimberly-Clark exec: Gov't change should not affect investors

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE attitudes of a prospective joint-venture partner and the quality of its personnel are more important for foreign investors than election results, according to John Van Steenberg, president of Kimberly-Clark Europe.

Van Steenberg visited here this week to conclude the Texas-based Kimberly-Clark Corp. (KCC) purchase of 49.9 percent of Hogle, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Paper Mills (APM), for \$49.9m.

Van Steenberg, who headed the negotiations on behalf of KCC, said the company's decision to enter a joint-venture agreement was not affected in any way by the results of the elections.

He said the investment is part of KCC's policy to establish a pres-

ence all over the world and added that Israel is an attractive location due to its relatively high growth rate and population growth.

"We work in many countries," Van Steenberg said. "Governments go and governments come and there is no difference. In April, when I made my presentation to the board of directors regarding the joint venture, the board was interested in the financial performance of the company [Hogle] and the people in the company."

KCC, which is a world leader in tissue-based and personal care products, has experience in joint ventures in many countries — including Australia, Colombia,

Mexico, Philippines, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

"We have experience with successful joint ventures," he said. "What is very important is to find a partner with similar products, the best customer relations [and] the best financial returns. We share very similar views with AIPM. It is a very well-run company which can apply our technology. They fit our profile of our long-term partner."

According to the agreement, KCC has undertaken to transfer know-how to Hogle, including technological expertise which is expected to help the company increase its product range.

KCC has also agreed to give Hogle exclusive rights to produce and distribute its products here.

Five contenders vie for General Bank

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

FIVE consortia have submitted bids for the purchase of Baron Edmond de Rothschild's 52.8 percent share in General Bank.

The contenders are First International Bank, Union Bank, Jerusalem Bank in partnership with its parent company Export Investment, the Etgar fund in partnership with investors from Columbia and a group of local private investors.

Representatives of the Rothschild family are expected to announce the winner in about two weeks, after which the potential buyer will be able to conduct a due-diligence report of the bank before agreeing on a final price.

The shares will be sold by Isrope Participation, a company controlled by de Rothschild.

According to estimates, the shares will be sold for about \$40-\$45 million, a price higher than the bank's market value.

All the contenders informed the sellers of their intention to continue operating the bank as an independent entity.

The owners of Union Bank and the Jerusalem Bank are interested

in purchasing a small bank like General, because it fits in with their strategy to expand by boosting infrastructure and activities.

Banking sources said Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles favorably views the merger with one of these two banks.

General Bank completed the first quarter with a fall in net profits to NIS 2.14m. from NIS 3.3m. in the same period last year.

Russia's central bank tightens credit on fears Yeltsin's promises will spur inflation

MOSCOW (Reuter) — Russia's central bank, concerned at the cost of President Boris Yeltsin's pre-election promises, yesterday tightened monetary policy to keep inflation down.

Bank chairman Sergei Dubinin announced steps which he said would eliminate the inflationary impact of big issues of roubles and of a decision to transfer \$1 billion of central bank profits to the government ahead of the June 16 presidential election.

"I think we will manage to neutralize the inflationary consequences and the consequences for the currency market of these decisions," Dubinin told a news conference.

He said Moscow would stick to its commitments on economic reform.

Yeltsin, facing a tough challenge from communist Gennady Zyuganov, has made a string of spending pledges and has ordered the government to pay off huge wage arrears.

Dubinin said the bank had issued 13 trillion roubles (\$2.57b.) since the last week of May and that eight trillion of this was potentially inflationary.

Yeltsin, who pledged in his election manifesto to scrap infla-

tionary budgets and eliminate the deficit by 2000, last week approved plans to transfer five trillion roubles of central bank profits to the government, despite bank opposition.

Critics said this was tantamount to printing money.

Dubinin said much of the total 25 trillion roubles issued in the last three months had been removed from the money market before it could have an inflationary impact.

The central bank had sold reserves to drain cash from the system, he said.

Bank first deputy chairman Sergei Aleksashenko said central bank reserves had fallen to \$12.5b. from \$16b. at the beginning of April.

"We have absorbed all the liquidity from the market," he told reporters.

"We have issued roubles, we have sold foreign exchange. That's why there are no roubles in the economy." But the bank said in a statement further moves were needed now to keep monetary policy tight.

It said it was raising banks' reserve requirements to a maximum 20 percent on deposits of up to 30 days, which means that banks must hold more money on deposit at the central bank.

The central bank also cut the limit on banks' open currency positions to 20% from today and suspended Lombard credit auctions — a way for banks to get central bank funds.

"I think the reaction of commercial banks will be quite negative, but we have to be responsible for the stability of the finan-

cial system," Dubinin said.

At the same time Dubinin, stung by fears the central bank's independence was being eroded, said the bank was appealing to the supreme court against the profit transfer, which contravened a law banning direct central bank credits to the government.

"This is not only our right but our duty," he said.

Fighting inflation has been the government's main economic priority and one of its biggest success stories.

Prices rose 1.6% in May, the lowest monthly rate since reforms began in 1992.

Dubinin said he did not think

inflation would be higher in August or September than in May-June and said only Yeltsin's program contained clear measures to fight inflation.

Russia pledged to keep inflation to 1% a month by the end of the year when it took a \$10b. three-year loan from the International Monetary Fund.

The latest IMF monitoring mission to check progress on the loan program is due in Russia today. Dubinin said he was sure Moscow would be able to show it had kept to the program.

"We will do all we can to ensure the monetary program is fulfilled in June," he said.

ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

CHANGES IN FEES AT BORDER CROSSINGS

1. The baggage fee at all border crossings has been lowered and is now NIS 103.
2. The fee for outgoing passengers at the Allenby terminal only has been raised to NIS 90.
3. The fee for outgoing passengers on public transport from Eilat to Aqaba via the Arava border crossing is now NIS16, provided that passengers return to Eilat by public transport on the same day.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patish (foreign currency deposit rates) (6.5.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.825	4.750	5.250
Forward sterling (£100,000)	4.125	4.250	4.700
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.750	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 250,000)	0.500	0.500	0.750

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (10.6.96)

Currency	FOREIGN AND TRANSFER		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate*
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.2580	3.2590	3.18	3.24	3.2500
German mark	2.1080	2.1100	2.05	2.12	2.1100
French franc	0.0228	0.0232	0.022	0.023	0.0228
Japanese yen (100)	2.9815	3.0025	2.91	3.00	2.9770
British pound	1.8234	1.8158	1.82	1.85	1.8210
Swiss franc	2.2546	2.2550	2.21	2.24	2.2540
Norwegian krone	0.4780	0.4888	0.47	0.50	0.4810
Danish krone	0.6252	0.6215	0.62	0.61	0.6250
Portuguese escudo	0.5491	0.5500	0.53	0.57	0.5490
Spanish peseta	0.0207	0.0210	0.020	0.021	0.0207
Australian dollar	2.5270	2.5102	2.25	2.45	2.3934
S. African rand	0.7527	0.7511	0.67	0.75	0.7428
Italian lira (100)	1.0247	1.0413	1.02	1.05	1.0234
American dollar (10)	2.9815	3.0025	2.94	3.00	3.0024
Japanese yen (10)	2.9815	3.0025	2.94	3.00	2.9770
British pound (10)	1.8234	1.8158	1.82	1.85	1.8210
Swiss franc (10)	2.2546	2.2550	2.21	2.24	2.2540
Israeli sheqel	1.0000	1.0000	1.00	1.00	1.0000
U.S. dollar (100)	3.2580	3.2590	3.18	3.24	3.2500
German mark (100)	2.1080	2.1100	2.05	2.12	2.1100
French franc (100)	0.0228	0.0232	0.022	0.023	0.0228
Japanese yen (10,000)	2.9815	3.0025	2.94	3.00	2.9770
British pound (10)	1.8234	1.8158	1.82	1.85	1.8210
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Norwegian krone (10)	0.4780	0.4888	0.47	0.50	0.4810
Danish krone (10)	0.6252	0.6215	0.62	0.61	0.6250
Portuguese escudo (10)	0.5491	0.5500	0.53	0.57	0.5490
Spanish peseta (10)	0.0207	0.0210	0.020	0.021	0.0207
Australian dollar (10)	2.5270	2.5102	2.25	2.45	2.3934
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Swiss franc (10)	2.2546	2.2550	2.21	2.24	2.2540

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Handwritten note: 1000000

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates against NIS.

NYSE STOCK MARKET table with columns for Name, Price, and Change.

New York market indexes table showing DJ Industrial, DJ Utility, and NYSE Index.

Other stock market indexes table including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng.

Israeli stocks in NY table listing companies like Bezeq and Tadiran.

NYSE / AMEX table listing various stocks and their prices.

NASDAQ / over-the-counter table listing OTC stocks.

Health Care table listing pharmaceutical and medical stocks.

Technology table listing computer and software stocks.

Energy table listing oil and gas related stocks.

Financial table listing bank and insurance stocks.

Real Estate table listing housing and construction stocks.

Consumer table listing retail and consumer goods stocks.

Transportation table listing airline and shipping stocks.

Media table listing newspaper and publishing stocks.

Telecommunications table listing telecom stocks.

Utilities table listing electric and utility stocks.

Other table listing miscellaneous stocks.

Libor rates table showing interest rates for various terms.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

US commodities table listing oil, gold, and other commodities.

London commodities table listing various international commodities.

Spot market metals (US) table listing metal prices.

New York metal futures table listing metal futures contracts.

London metal fixes table listing metal prices in London.

Currency cross rates table showing exchange rates for various currencies.

Additional currency cross rates table.

Additional currency cross rates table.

Additional currency cross rates table.

Additional currency cross rates table.

Additional currency cross rates table.

Additional currency cross rates table.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading / Two-sided trading

Main Tel Aviv Stock Market table with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Volume.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries and companies.

Withdrawal from provident funds lowers market

ROBERT DANIEL. Two-Sided index 203.71 -0.89%. Maof index 215.00 -0.77%.

SHARES dropped for a second straight day yesterday, led by Bezeq, as small investors pulled money out of provident funds, hurting stock prices.

Eurobourses end lower after strong morning

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses followed Wall Street down, paring morning gains yesterday as US industrials seemed unable to sustain Friday's short-covering rally on strong economic data and focused on new indicators due this week.

Stocks slightly lower

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks edged lower yesterday as interest rates continued to rise in the bond market and trading slowed in advance of some more signals on inflation.

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks edged lower yesterday as interest rates continued to rise in the bond market and trading slowed in advance of some more signals on inflation.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

Table of currency cross rates for various international currencies.

Scots draw with Dutch Angels' rookie hurler hits in the clutch

BIRMINGHAM - (Reuter) - Underdogs Scotland put up a spirited battle to hold the favored Dutch to a goalless draw in their opening match of the European championship yesterday.

With the Dutch starting as if they aimed to win at a canter, Scotland looked overawed by the orange armada facing them in the early part of the game.

But once Dennis Bergkamp and his team mates had squandered several early chances, Scotland seemed to realize that the Dutch were only human after all and forced their way into the match.

The draw, which was the fourth in Euro 96's first five games, left Group A wide open with England and Switzerland also on one point.

The Dutch team, built around a nucleus of Ajax Amsterdam players, crucially missed three of the most important - the suspended Danny Blind and injured Frank de Boer and Marc Overmars, both ruled out of the tournament before it began.

Against a disciplined Scottish defense which kept Bergkamp under tight rein, the orange men just lacked the vital spark of imagination which would have made the difference.

The Scots twice scrambled shots from Bergkamp and Witschge off the goal-line before the interval and lived through some anxious moments after the

break. Clarence Seedorf should have put the Dutch ahead in the 53rd minute but he headed Gaston Taument's cross down and the ball bounced over the bar.

Jordi Cruyff appealed in vain for a penalty when he appeared to be tripped by Stewart McKimmie as he dribbled into the goal area in the 61st minute and Seedorf had another good chance which he hit just wide five minutes from time.

Scotland attacked furiously but the hard work of McAllister in midfield and the subtle ball skills of John Collins were not enough to stretch the opposition unduly.

The Dutch need to show better marksmanship in their next game against the Swiss in Birmingham on Thursday. Scotland meet England at Wembley on Saturday in what will be a crucial match for both.

France 1, Romania 0
France cleared their path towards a place in the quarter-finals when they overcame a spirited Romania by the only goal of a closely-fought Euro 96 group B clash at St James' Park in Newcastle.

A solitary headed goal after 24 minutes by Christophe Dugarry divided the sides on a night when both teams struggled to produce the open, flowing football they had promised in the build-up.

Several so-called "technical" fouls and many much heavier challenges, added to the excellent defensive work by both teams, made it difficult for the creative players to

find any space and few clear chances were made. France's win extended their unbeaten sequence to 24 matches and will ease the pressure on coach Aimé Jacquet from French supporters hoping his team can recreate the glories of their European championship title-winning squad of 1984.

Although they did not play with any of the gay abandon of that Michel Platini inspired team, they showed durability in defense and both pace and invention in attack.

Dugarry struck against the run of play, when Yuri Djorkaeff collected a ball on the right and flung a deep cross towards the penalty spot.

The long-haired Frenchman rose above Romania's crushing goal-keeper Bogdan Stelea and two defenders to send a looping header bouncing into the net.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS:
At Newcastle: France 1, Romania 0 (half-time 1-0).
Scorers: Christophe Dugarry (24).
At Birmingham: Netherlands 0, Scotland 0.

TOMORROW'S MATCHES:
Italy v. Russia, 6:30 pm
Turkey v. Croatia, 8:30 pm
Both games televised live on Channel 1.

European championship standings

Group	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Group A							
England	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Switzerland	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Netherlands	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Scotland	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Group B							
France	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
Spain	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Bulgaria	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Romania	0	0	1	1	1	1	0

CLEVELAND (AP) - Rookie Ryan Hancock, in a remarkable display of hitting, pitching and fielding in just his second major league game, excelled as the California Angels beat the Cleveland Indians 8-6 Sunday, in 13 innings.

In the top of the 13th, Hancock became the first California pitcher to get a hit since the inception of the designated hitter in 1973.

Forced to bat because of a lineup switch, Hancock singled off Julian Tavarez with one out, making him the first Angels pitcher with a hit since Nolan Ryan on September 30, 1972. Hancock later scored on J.T. Snow's second home run of the game.

Hancock (1-0), who made his Major League debut Saturday, allowed the first two Cleveland batters to reach in the bottom of the 13th. But he then rushed in and made a diving catch on Kenny Lofton's bunt and threw to second base for a double play, and retired the last batter for the win.

Albert Belle hit his major league-leading 24th homer for the Indians, who tied the game in the ninth with a run off Troy Percival. Yankees 3, Tigers 2.

Dwight Gooden pitched four-hit ball for eight innings and first-place New York averted a three-game sweep in Detroit.

Gooden (5-4) walked none, struck out six and left with a 3-1 lead. John Wetteland relieved to start the ninth and gave up a home run to Bobby Higginson before getting his 14th save.

Greg Gohr (3-8) was the loser. Denny Tartabull homered and doubled in an eight-run fourth inning as the visiting Chicago White Sox beat the Orioles and Mike Mussina to complete a three-game sweep.

Mussina and Chicago starter Wilson Alvarez both came in with five-game winning streaks, but neither made it out of the fourth inning. Mussina (3-3) yielded 11 hits and a career-high tying nine runs, while Alvarez allowed nine hits and six earned runs.

Matt Karchner (5-0) won and Roberto Hernandez got his 19th save. Frank Thomas homered for Chicago. Cal Ripken and Rafael Palmeiro connected for Baltimore, but Roberto Alomar went 0-for-4 and had his 22-game hitting streak stopped.

Major League Results:
Rookie third baseman Andy Sheets, whose ninth-inning error put visiting Seattle's lead in jeopardy, caught Sal Fasano's line drive and stepped on the bag for a game-ending double play as Seattle won.
Ken Griffey Jr. and Dan Wilson hit home runs that helped the Mariners take a 3-1 lead.

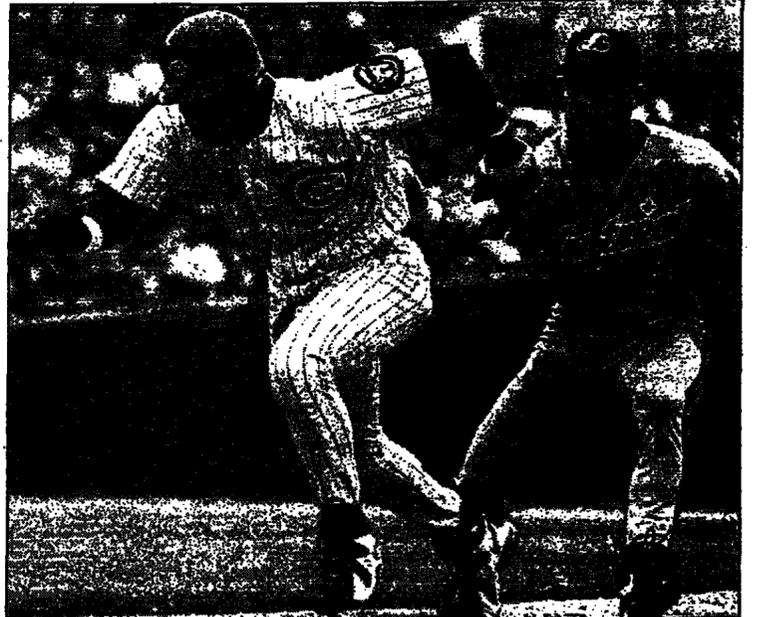
Sheets, recalled from the minors Saturday a day after third baseman Russ Davis took his leg chancing a foul pop in Kansas City, began the ninth by throwing away Craig Paquette's grounder for an error.

Keith Lockhart followed with a triple that cut the Mariners' lead to a run. After Joe Randa grounded out to a drawn-in Sheets, Fasano hit a line drive down the line.

Sheets, playing even with the bag, caught the ball to his right and took two steps to double off Lockhart.

Sterling Hitchcock (5-2) was the winner and Norm Charlton got his ninth save. Mark Gubicza (4-9) lost to the Mariners for the sixth straight time.

Brewers 11, Red Sox 8 (10)
John Jaha tripled with the bases loaded to break a 10th-inning tie.
Pat Litchak, who went 3-for-4, walked to lead off the 10th and stole second. He took third when Kevin Seitzer grounded to second, first base-



YOU'RE IT - Montreal's second baseman Mike Lansing puts the tag on Chicago's Sammy Sosa in Sunday's game.

man Mo Vaughn went for the ball and Heathcliff Slocumb (1-5) failed to cover first.

Dave Nilsson followed with a ground ball to shortstop John Valentin. He threw to third to try and catch Litchak off the base, but the Brewers runner slid back safely. After Greg Vaughn struck out, Jaha tripled.

Terry Burrows (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings and Mike Fetters got his 11th save.

Rangers 8, Blue Jays 6
Juan Gonzalez hit a three-run homer, highlighting a five-run third inning that gave the host Rangers a three-game sweep.

Mark McLemore had four hits for the Texas. He drove in two runs and scored one.

Bobby Witt (6-4) survived 5 1/2 shaky innings, and passed last year's combined five victories for Florida and Texas. He left with a 6-5 lead after allowing five hits and walking five.

Dennis Cook, Jeff Russell and Mike Henneman teamed to pitch 3 1/2 innings of one-hit relief. Henneman worked the ninth for his 18th save.

The Rangers took a 5-1 lead in the third against Erik Hanson (6-8). Twins 5, Athletics 3.

Scott Stahoviyak homered and Frank Rodriguez won his second straight game as his sixth Minnesota improved 7-2 in June and 30-30 for the season.

Stahoviyak's fourth-inning homer was his sixth of the season and gave the Twins a 4-3 lead.

Rodriguez (5-6) won his second straight start, allowing eight hits. He struck out seven and walked three.

Mark McGwire gave the A's a 2-0 lead in the first with a 475-foot homer, his 15th of the season and the longest ball ever hit to left field in the Metrodome.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Braves 8, Rockies 3
Fine pinching by John Smoltz led visiting Atlanta.

Smoltz (12-1) allowed seven hits, struck out nine and walked two over 8 1/2 innings in winning his 12th straight decision. He helped his own

cause with a two-run double. The Rockies led centerfielder Larry Walker for at least eight weeks when he crashed into the center field wall and fractured his left clavicle causing down Jeff Blaser's triple in the seventh.

Ryan Klecko had two hits including a two-run homer, his 20th, for the Braves. Jeff Blaser drove in three runs with a single and triple.

The Braves scored three runs off Colorado starter Mark Thompson (3-6) in the second, capped by Smoltz's two-run double. Blaser had an RBI single after Fred McGriff singled and Thompson had hit Javy Lopez.

Mets 3, Marlins 0
Jason Isringhausen allowed six hits and struck out a career-high 10 in his first major league start, and Burch Hasky homered for lost New York.

The 25-year old Isringhausen (3-7), who had five losses and a no-decision in his previous six starts, retired 14 of the last 16 batters he faced.

He escaped a jam in the ninth inning, retiring Terry Pendleton on a popout after Gary Sheffield and Greg Colburn had singled.

With the game scoreless, Hasky led off the third against John Burkett (4-7) with his fifth homer.

Isringhausen, beaten by the Marlins in center field and the outfield bleachers, Trachsel (4-4) gave up four hits and walked none over seven innings. He struck out six for his first win in his last five starts. Turk Wendell pitched the final inning for his sixth save, and the Cubs won for the fourth time in their last six games.

Kirk Rueter (2-4) gave up three hits, walked one and struck out four over

6 1/2 innings for Montreal. He retired 15 in a row and led 2-1 before the seventh, when Sandberg wound up homering off Dave Veres.

Astros 2, Phillies 1
Ricky Gutierrez continued his torrid hitting with a two-run single in the seventh inning, and host Houston rode to a three-game sweep.

Gutierrez's decisive hit was the ninth in his last 11 at-bats, raising his average to .340.

Starter Mike Hampton pitched six innings, allowing a run on seven hits while walking one and striking out one. Anthony Young (2-2) pitched the seventh for the victory, and Todd Jones worked the last two innings, barely surviving for his 12th save.

Allen Watson pitched seven innings and had a key RBI during a six-run San Francisco sixth.

Watson (6-6) scattered seven hits and broke a personal three-game losing streak, walking two and striking out four. He is 2-0 with a 1.38 ERA in two starts against the Cardinals, who traded Watson and two other players to the host Giants for shortstop Royce Clayton in the offseason.

Mark Carroon's RBI double off Alar Benes (5-4) scored Steve Scaresone with a third-inning run for the Giants, and it stayed that way until the game-breaking sixth.

SUNDAY'S AL RESULTS:
New York 3, Detroit 2 (10)
Milwaukee 3, Boston 2
Seattle 3, Kansas City 2
Chicago 12, Baltimore 9
California 4, Cleveland 6 (13)
Texas 8, Toronto 6
Minnesota 5, Oakland 3

SUNDAY'S NL RESULTS:
New York 3, Florida 0
Chicago 4, Montreal 2
Houston 2, Philadelphia 1
Atlanta 2, Colorado 3
San Francisco 9, St. Louis 0
Los Angeles 3, Cincinnati 2
Pittsburgh 6, San Diego 0

Yorkshire rises to top of table

LONDON (Reuter) - England seaman bowler Darren Gough helped Yorkshire clamber to the top of the county championship table yesterday, snatching four of the five remaining Surrey wickets in a brisk morning session.

Gough took four for 25 in 11 overs at Middlesbrough to finish the match with five for 36. Yorkshire won by 221 runs to clinch 23 points.

They now turn their attention to today's Benson and Hedges one-day semifinal against arch-rivals Lancashire.

Sussex needed only seven balls to wrap up their second championship victory in three games, beating Durham by an innings and 67 runs on the final day at Hove.

Stragglers Durham, resuming on 324 for nine and still 69 runs behind, added only two runs before paceman Ed Giddins bowled David Cox with his first ball of the morning.

It was Durham's fifth successive championship defeat by Sussex and the northerners have now gone 16 games this season without a win against first-class opposition.

Yorkshire's win gives it a total of 91 points, just one ahead of Kent. But Derbyshire and Warwickshire kept up the pressure by collecting valuable wickets to take them to third and fourth respectively.

Derbyshire can thank off-spinner Matthew Vandrau who took six for 34 as they completed a 54-run win over Hampshire.

Needing 171 to win, Hampshire reached 51 for two before Vandrau and young pace bowler Andy Harris (four for 48) ripped

out the heart of the innings to dismiss the home side for just 116.

Another spinner to bowl his side to victory was Warwickshire's slow-left armer Ashley Giles who took four for 69 as Somerset, chasing 339, were bowled out for 239.

Australian Shane Lee continued his fine run of form with a well-struck 61 but it was not enough to prevent Somerset from sliding to a 99 run defeat - its first championship loss of the season.

The day's other two matches both ended in draws.

Northamptonshire's bid for its first championship win of the season continues after the rain and some dogged Nottinghamshire batting held them at bay.

Following on 242 behind, Nottinghamshire's chances of survival were helped by the rain which meant just four balls were bowled during the morning.

Then, despite three wickets from former England spinner John Emburey, they held out to reach 176 for four at stumps.

At Chelmsford, the high-scoring match between Essex and Lancashire also ended in stalemate but not before Lancashire had caused a few flutters in the home changing-room.

First Ian Austin struck a rapid 89 not out and shared a 10th wicket stand which produced 91 runs and took Lancashire to the massive total of 686 - a lead of 177.

Then, Essex slumped to 108 for four but half-centuries from Jonathan Lewis and Darren Robinson took it to 229 for six and safety.

English county championship results:
At Hove: Sussex beat Durham by an innings and 67 runs. Sussex 552-8 declared, Durham 159 and 326 (S.Campbell 87, D.Cox 67, M.Betts 57 not out, C.Scott 52, D.Law 5-33). Sussex 24 points, Durham one.

At Middlesbrough: Yorkshire beat Surrey by 221 runs. Yorkshire 305 and 387, Surrey 197 and 274 (M.Butcher 112, D.Gough 5-36). Yorkshire 23 points, Surrey four.

At Southampton: Derbyshire beat Hampshire by 54 runs. Derbyshire 472 and 192 (S.Udal 4-44, C.Connor 4-64). Hampshire 494 and 116 (M.Vandrau 6-34; A.Harris 4-48). Derbyshire 24 points, Hampshire 6.

At Taunton: Warwickshire beat Somerset by 99 runs. Warwickshire 255 and 325 (A.Moles 75, D.Ostler 66, T.Pemsey 52; A.Caddick 5-85). Somerset 242 and 239 (S.Lee 61; A.Giles 4-69). Warwickshire 22 points, Somerset 5.

At Chelmsford: Match drawn. Essex 428 and 228-6 (J.Lewis 54 not out, D.Robinson 50). Lancashire 686. Essex 9 points, Lancashire 9.

At Trent Bridge: Match drawn. Northamptonshire 601-9 declared. Nottinghamshire 359 and 176-4. Nottinghamshire 8 points, Northamptonshire 10.

County Championship Standings

County	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bowl	Pts
Yorkshire	6	3	1	2	20	17	81
Kent	6	2	0	1	15	18	90
Derbyshire	6	2	1	3	23	19	83
Warwickshire	5	3	0	1	19	19	90
Lancashire	6	2	0	1	18	17	78
Middlesex	5	3	2	0	8	19	75
Essex	5	2	1	2	19	15	62
Somerset	5	2	2	1	20	20	67
Sussex	5	2	2	1	11	11	57
Hampshire	5	1	2	2	15	15	52
Gloucestershire	4	1	2	1	9	14	48
Nottinghamshire	5	1	3	1	18	9	42
Northamptonshire	5	0	1	4	14	15	41
Lancashire	5	0	1	4	14	15	41
Derham	5	0	3	2	10	21	40
Nottinghamshire	5	0	3	2	14	13	39
Northamptonshire	5	0	3	2	12	25	38
Worcestershire	4	0	2	2	5	13	24

AFL match stopped due to power failure

MELBOURNE (AP) - A power failure helped delay a likely victory for Essendon over St. Kilda in an Australian Football League match on Saturday.

The match was suspended after the outage plunged the players and more than 40,000 spectators into darkness. Officials said a car hit a power pole near Waverley Park,

where the match was being played, causing the initial blackout.

Essendon led by 20 points when the game was called off. The game will be resumed tonight.

AFL 10th ROUND RESULTS:
West Coast Eagles 19.16 (130) def. Adelaide 11.10 (76)
Eagles 17.8 (110) def. Fremantle 7.11 (53)

Essendon vs. St. Kilda, suspended, power failure.
Carlton 15.11 (101) def. Richmond 13.12 (90)
Geelong 14.14 (98) drew with Brisbane Bears 15.8 (98)
Sydney Swans 21.11 (137) def. Fitzroy 10.7 (67)
North Melbourne 12.17 (89) def. Footscray 10.3 (69)
Melbourne 17.12 (114) def. Collingwood 10.16 (76)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Davis named '76ers coach
Johnny Davis, a former Portland assistant coach and NBA player, was named head coach of the Philadelphia 76ers yesterday.

Davis replaces John Lucas, who was fired May 13 after the team finished 18-64, the second-worst record in the NBA last season. AP

Teen wows the crowds at Caesarea
The monthly medal competition was divided into four divisions. Fourteen-year-old David Adelman won Division A with a 78 gross, 71 net score. David playing from a 7 handicap hit 13 of the 18 greens in regulation. His round included 11 pars and one birdie.

Died for second were Tamar Renesse and Zev Abraham with 75 net each. In Division B, Effie Beebe had a 70 net followed by Nathan Solski at 73 and Judy Reetz with 75.

In Division C, senior Jules Cubaruck won with a 70. Hancock Reichenberg was second with a 71, and Baruch Balkatz and Malca Gori tied for third with 72 apiece. Izhak Topenzberg led Division D with a 71. Moshe Tchisik was second with 77, and died for third were Walter Rosenberg and Nate Kasky with 77s.

After eleven rounds of the National Golf Club's Club League, Kfir Shmaryahu retains its lead of 24 points. Tel Aviv is second with 19, and Jerusalem is third with 17 points.

Israeli bowlers shine in South Africa
Israel's physically disabled lawn bowlers put up a sharp performance in the recent South African Open championships. The triples team of Zvi Friedman, Rami Herman, and wheelchair bowler Akiva Farber brought Israel the gold with excellent wins of 23-3 and 14-13 against England and Australia, respectively.

Avi Friedman reached the semifinals of the singles, losing to the eventual winner, while Herman and Farber each recorded preliminary round successes.

STANLEY CUP FINALS

LAST NIGHT:
Colorado at Florida
Colorado leads series 3-0

ON THURSDAY:
Florida at Colorado
If necessary

NHL Playoff goals statistics

Team	MP	GA	SO	Arg.	W	L	SV	SV%
NY	1	0	0	0	0	0	230	
NY	1349	511	2	277	15	8	526	913
Colorado	1255	51	2	226	15	6	526	913

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DEADLINE OFFICES:
Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 8 p.m. on Thursday.
Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

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Rivalry over Housing Ministry straining coalition talks

NATIONAL Religious Party leader Zevulun Hammer is to meet this morning with prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu to try to resolve the row which last night appeared to threaten NRP participation in the new coalition.

In a fit of fury, Hammer announced yesterday that he would recommend that his party not enter the coalition. This came after what was described as an "unpleasant meeting" with top Likud negotiators in which Hammer laid claim to the Housing portfolio for his party and was flatly turned down.

The Housing portfolio, coveted by most of the prospective coalition partners, continued to generate the most trouble for the Likud negotiators throughout the day. Yesterday the Likud was given ultimatums by the NRP, Yisrael Ba'aliya and United Torah Judaism - all over the Housing portfolio.

The blow-up with the NRP occurred when Hammer met with MK-elect Yitzhak Mordechai and with Netanyahu's right-hand man Avigdor Lieberman. Hammer was upset that his party was being offered lesser portfolios than those set aside for Shas. He accused the Likud of taking the NRP for granted and of treating it contemptuously, despite the fact that the NRP had unequivocally endorsed Netanyahu during the election campaign.

Both the NRP and Shas got the portfolios they were most after - Education for the NRP and the Interior for Shas. But Shas, according to unofficial reports, was also promised Labor and Social Affairs, while the second portfolio reportedly offered the NRP was Communications. According to some reports Health may also be offered the NRP, perhaps

even in addition to Communications.

The prize offered Shas is a ministry with enormous clout, while the Communications portfolio is considered minor, especially as the intention now is to remove responsibility for broadcast and cable TV from that ministry. The Health portfolio is considered undesirable.

Hammer was described as livid when he conferred with Mordechai and Lieberman, and said his party will feel that it is being treated as well as Shas only if its second portfolio is Housing. His Likud interlocutors told him right off that the Housing portfolio will in any case remain in Likud hands, and probably be given to Ariel Sharon, if he will agree to take it.

Sharon, meanwhile, appeared to be in good spirits after emerging from an hour-long meeting with prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu.

Both sides insisted that portfolios were not discussed, only defense issues. Hammer responded that he would recommend that his party not enter the coalition.

The second crisis the Likud encountered yesterday also involved the Housing portfolio. Likud negotiators met with Yisrael Ba'aliya representatives and were told that the Housing portfolio is make-or-break for that party. MK-elect Yuri Stern argued that Yisrael Ba'aliya's support emanated in great part from the frustration new immigrants feel about their housing problems and that his party was elected to provide a solution to these problems. He threatened that his party would not compro-

mise on this portfolio, even if it means staying out of the coalition.

So far Yisrael Ba'aliya seems unenthusiastic about the reported offer of the Industry and Trade portfolio. Yisrael Ba'aliya's negotiators are to meet with the Likud again this morning.

The third dispute over the Housing portfolio involved United Torah Judaism, which demanded the portfolio for Meir Porush. Like Yisrael Ba'aliya, UTJ argues that its constituency is plagued by severe housing problems and that it had promised to help solve these problems.

Porush rejected the suggestion that he serve in the Housing Ministry as Sharon's deputy minister. Though UTJ's rabbinic mentors have never allowed its MKs to serve as ministers, they have served as deputy ministers with no ministers above them. UTJ wants full control of the portfolio in this fashion.

Porush suggested last night, however, that the council might break from its tradition and allow him to become a minister. UTJ's Avraham Ravitz said last night that "it isn't that we don't want Arik [Sharon] to get the portfolio. Far from it. We love Arik and he knows it. But so far as we are concerned Arik can get Finance. We are not blacklisting him, we just need this portfolio to help our long-suffering population."

The betting in the Likud last night was still that Sharon will get an expanded Housing portfolio - probably together with the Transport portfolio - and that UTJ would be offered two deputy minister posts in the Housing Ministry.

The question now is whether this offer had been put to Sharon, whether Sharon had accepted it and whether UTJ would consent.



Students from Tel Aviv University's Drama Club, with their backs to the Tower of David Museum in Jerusalem's Old City, perform Aeschylus's 'Suppliant Women' at the Fourth International Student Theater Festival, which opened yesterday in the capital. (Avi Hayon)

Peres, Zvilli discuss advancing leadership primary

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres and Labor Party secretary-general Nissim Zvilli last night discussed the possibility of advancing the party's leadership primary.

"Peres is the only one who will set the party's timetable for the leadership elections," Zvilli said. Labor's political bureau is due to convene to debate the issue after the new Knesset is sworn in next week.

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, who has been pushing for a primary by the end of the year, canceled a scheduled meeting of ministers and MKs who support him after hearing of the tragedy in Lebanon.

Barak discussed the issue with Peres in what was described as a positive, friendly conversation, and it was reported that he will

leave the decision up to Peres.

Barak's rival, Interior Minister Haim Ramon came out against early elections, and blasted Barak indirectly for trying to undermine Peres's authority.

"It is too early to act to change the leadership and to start a fight over who will head the party," he said. "The new government hasn't even been set up yet, and already some people are pushing the prime minister to go home. It's neither respectable nor the way to behave when you lose. Peres has contributed to the state and to the party for many years and he deserves to complete his term as party leader in a dignified manner."

He said he has not yet decided whether to run for the party lead-

ership. "I want to know what kind of party I'm running in and what the election system will be," he said, reiterating his call for an open primary, in which the entire public can vote.

MK Dalia Itzik, who is contending for the position of secretary-general, also came out against moving up the elections. She said Peres intends to spend the next year rehabilitating the party, as he has done in the past.

"His leadership is essential, at least for the first year after the electoral defeat. He is the cement which can mend the rifts in the party, and most MKs feel the same way," she said.

She lashed out at "some people who are running too fast. It doesn't look dignified. Any step to advance the party elections must be taken together with Peres. We must wait two weeks or a month, until Peres gets back to himself, and examine all the options coolly and in an orderly way, rather than impulsively."

She attacked the ministers who are pushing for a unity government, noting that such a move would be "disturbing and disgraceful. Whoever tries to do so will turn us into a Likud B, led by Likud A."

Itzik, who criticized Ramon and Barak for their mutual accusations, called for Zvilli's resignation, saying he is one of the leaders responsible for the party's defeat.

Zvilli responded that "there are some who are trying to pull the party together and others who are occupied with intrigue and dispute. I hope she feels satisfied with what she did for Peres's election in the campaign. Apart from that I have no comment."

Man remanded for part in cocaine smuggling

RAINE MARCUS

A MAN allegedly involved in smuggling 38 kilograms of cocaine into Israel some three months ago was remanded for eight days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Solomon Amar was arrested on Saturday, after police captured Pinhas Ohana, his brother-in-law, who had been on the wanted list for three months.

Ohana was arrested in his Bat Yam apartment and was remanded on Sunday for his alleged part in smuggling the cocaine from the US in a furniture container. Police said at the time that this was the largest amount of the drug ever smuggled directly into Israel.

The container was shipped in the names of Ohana's brother and sister-in-law, who had lived in the US for several years.

Rapist's sentence increased

THE Supreme Court yesterday nearly doubled the sentence of a man convicted of raping his two sisters-in-law. The man had impregnated both of his wife's sisters, one of whom had lived with them because she was orphaned. After he was sentenced in Beersheba District Court to eight years in prison, and two years suspended, he and the prosecution appealed. The Supreme Court agreed with the prosecution, and increased the sentence to 15 years, with three years' suspended. *lim*

Deri asks Supreme Court to disqualify judges

EVELYN GORDON

SHAS MK Aryeh Deri and his co-defendants appealed to the Supreme Court yesterday to ask that the three Jerusalem District Court judges hearing their trial be disqualified.

The trial, on corruption charges, has been going on for three years, and the prosecution has only just completed presenting its case. The defense has not yet been heard. If Deri's request to disqualify the judges is accepted, it will mean starting the entire trial over again - something the Supreme Court is very unlikely to agree to.

Deri's lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, argued that the three judges - Ya'acov Zeman, Miriam Naor, and Moussia Arad - are hopelessly biased against his client, and therefore cannot try the case fairly. As proof of this, he cited the judges' June 3 decision on the defense's request for a summer break, should the trial still be going on at that time.

The decision was issued just as the defense began to argue "no case" - that the prosecution had not proved its charges, and that therefore there was no need for the defense to even respond. However, the court wrote in its decision that "there is still a long road to travel until the end of the trial." This proves, Avi-Yitzhak said, that the court had made up its mind to reject the "no case" arguments even before it had heard them.

Avi-Yitzhak also charged that the court had exhibited numerous other instances of bias. For instance, the judges blamed the defense for the extraordinary

length of the trial, even though the prosecution has been running the show until now; they rejected some of the defense's requests for delays, while accepting prosecution requests (though many delays requested by the defense were granted); and they threatened that if the defense did not reach agreements with the prosecution as to some of the facts - a time-saving measure - it would take this into consideration "come judgment day."

Originally, Avi-Yitzhak had asked the three judges to disqualify themselves, which they refused to do. In their decision, they wrote that only someone who had sat through the trial or read through the thousands of pages of protocols could understand how unjust these charges were, and with what patience the court had behaved towards the defense. However, Avi-Yitzhak charged, they did not respond to most of the specific accusations he raised.

Regarding the June 3 decision, the judges noted that the issue of a summer break would arise only if the "no case" arguments were rejected; therefore, its decision to grant the request was clearly "in the event that [these] arguments are rejected."

The appeal strenuously denied that the request to disqualify the judges was a tactical measure. No defendant would take the risk of asking to disqualify a judge unless he felt it was crucial, Avi-Yitzhak said, because if the request is turned down, he will continue to be tried before a judge he has now antagonized.

WEATHER

Jerusalem	17-21
Beersheba	19-24
Haifa	20-21
Tiberias	21-28
Asdod	20-25
Semaria	18-21
Dead Sea	27-29
Elot	28-41
Golden	17-20

Forecast: Clear. Rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Temp	Cloud
Amsterdam	12	cloudy
Berlin	16	cloudy
Bombay	24	clear
Brussels	14	cloudy
Chicago	21	cloudy
Copenhagen	14	cloudy
Frankfurt	14	cloudy
Geneva	14	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	cloudy
London	13	cloudy
Los Angeles	27	cloudy
Madrid	18	cloudy
Moscow	18	cloudy
New York	23	cloudy
Paris	12	cloudy

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